

NEW YORK — Wall Street and Hollywood figures that returned to their homes Monday after a week in the Middle East, where they were seen in a variety of roles, including as peacekeepers, diplomats, and even as soldiers. The group included several of the most prominent figures in the entertainment industry, including actors, directors, and producers. They were seen in a variety of roles, including as peacekeepers, diplomats, and even as soldiers. The group included several of the most prominent figures in the entertainment industry, including actors, directors, and producers. They were seen in a variety of roles, including as peacekeepers, diplomats, and even as soldiers.

## KDP sees massive Iranian offensive

**SALAHUDDIN (AFP)** — A large contingent of Iranian troops crossed into northern Iraq in support of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Wednesday, the PUK's Kurdish rivals said. "The Islamic regime of Iran has intervened directly to help the PUK of (Jalal) Talabani and has sent several thousand soldiers armed with heavy weapons who have crossed the border," said the Baghdad-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in a statement. A KDP commander on the ground said late Wednesday that "fighting had intensified on several fronts" near Ranya, around 80 kilometres from the PUK stronghold of Sulaimaniyah. Earlier Wednesday sources in Ankara, where U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau has been leading peace talks with both sides, said a formal ceasefire announcement between the groups was imminent. (See page 12)

# Jordan Times

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## French president begins state visit to Jordan Chirac and King express hope for comprehensive peace, democracy and respect for human rights in Mideast

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

**FRENCH PRESIDENT** Jacques Chirac and His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing Jordanian-French relations and expressed hope that comprehensive peace would prevail soon in the Middle East.

The two leaders, in speeches delivered at a state banquet hosted by King Hussein in honour of the French president who arrived here Wednesday evening, also voiced hope to see democracy and respect for human rights and public freedoms prevailing throughout the region.

King Hussein said that obstacles along the path of peace do present themselves from time to time.

"They (obstacles) discourage the advocates of peace and those who belong to the peace camp in general and provide opportunities for the elements of extremism and frustration, the enemies of peace and life to impose their own agenda on the peace process in an attempt to eliminate it altogether," the King said at the banquet that was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, His Royal Highness Prince Talal and His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi in addition to ministers and Jordan's ambassador to France Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf.

On the French side, the banquet was attended by Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, head of the Middle East department at the Elysee Denis Bouchard, Ambassador in Amman



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday confers with French President Jacques Chirac at the Royal Palace (Petra photo)

Bernard Bajoler and the other members of delegation accompanying Mr. Chirac.

The King said: "This cumbersome challenge requires the international community and peace lovers at large to unite and work diligently to achieve peace and reap its benefits."

President Chirac, who arrived here on the third leg of a tour of the region, said:

"We should be faithful to the message of Yitzhak Rabin and the ambitions of Your Majesty and confirm the peace alternative despite the dangers that surround it. Reasons for concern over the peace process had multiplied and the stalemate had brought about more caution and more fear leading finally to violence."

President Chirac, who is advocating a more European role in the peace

process, said: France was willing to assume that role and ready to support Jordan's endeavours towards achieving comprehensive peace in the region.

On democracy, human rights and public freedoms the King said: Jordan shares common values with the international community and that the goals and aspirations "behind the Great Arab Revolt, led by my late great grandfather, Al Hussein Ben Ali, cannot be separated from the values of justice, liberty and respect for human rights, on which the French revolution stood, and for which peoples have striven since time immemorial."

"These values formed the very essence and foundations of a human civilisation bound by the teachings of the great monotheistic religions, in terms of respect for the human being and his inalienable right to

a free, secure and dignified life," he said.

The King added: "We are utilising all the possible means available to us in order to consolidate the foundations of our democratisation process, which we hope will be a model and an example to be followed. For we firmly believe that all the peoples of the world should have their rights to freedom, democracy and respect for human rights."

The French president, who will deliver a speech at the Parliament this morning, is expected to pay tribute to Jordan's democratic march in addition to highlighting France's new Arab policy and its perceptions of the Arab-Israeli peace process. In his address to Parliament, entitled Islam and the Society, Mr. Chirac will also be talking about France's "open outlook" towards Islam and Mus-

lims.

At the banquet, the president expressed admiration of Jordan's achievement in this domain and the Kingdom's positive steps towards eliminating martial law and introducing laws that protect human rights.

"The introduction of democracy (to the Kingdom) and the replacement of exceptional laws with legislations protective of human rights is a reflection of your orientation to harmonise modernity and values that are common to our societies with your traditions," he said.

"I would like to praise the atmosphere of tolerance and freedom that minorities in the Kingdom enjoy, the eastern churches Christians in particular," President Chirac said.

He regretted that the process of modernisation of the Kingdom and its achievements were adversely affected by economic losses resulting from the international embargo on Iraq.

"I hope this great country (Iraq) can regain its full status in the international community after it is proven that it complied with all U.N. resolutions," Mr. Chirac said. "But we have to put a limit to the humanitarian crisis that the Iraqi people is suffering from. That is why France wishes to see that Resolution 986 be put into force."

Resolution 986 allows limited exports of Iraqi oil for humanitarian needs. Earlier, President Chirac and King Hussein held a one-to-one meeting before being joined by senior officials from both sides.

The King and Mr. Chirac

(Continued on page 12)

## King warns against rise of extremism in Middle East

By Kheirallah Kheirallah  
and Saleem Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — His Majesty King Hussein has warned against the rising tide of extremism in the Middle East, saying that the success of the peace process only can prevent the extremists from (the Arab and Israeli) sides from imposing their agendas.

In an interview with the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily published today, King Hussein said the forces of extremism have succeeded at the level of imposing their will on the peace process, starting with the Hebron massacre and ending with the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the rise of the hardline Israeli right-wingers to power.

The King expressed his belief that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on an Israeli troop redeployment

in Hebron "will be crowned with success," thanks to regional and international efforts.

The King said his visit to Jericho last week "has reflected the mutual confidence" between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) despite "the attempts by many to undermine them."

In the one-hour interview, which was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, the King revealed that Jordan will soon conduct joint military exercises with some Gulf Arab states, noting that Jordan "has always been a natural extension to the Gulf security."

"Security cooperation with our brethren (in the Gulf) was not stopped, but was increased and enhanced," the King added.

The King said the region will witness a "review of the policies that were adopted in the past years"

towards Iraq, expressing fear that more deterioration might allow others in the region to interfere in Iraq's affairs. "Any such thing poses danger to all of us," he warned.

The King called on Iraq to rehabilitate itself through the available means to avert more deterioration in the domestic situation and urged Iran to have a "direct dialogue at the highest levels to be able to exactly define where we stand and where they stand, and where we are heading."

He described Jordanian-Syrian relations as "good ... at the personal level" and that the continuation of contacts between the two countries "is just a matter of time and no problems face this relationship."

He said there was no change in the friendly relations with Turkey after the rise of the pro-Islamist Wel-

(Continued on page 7)

## Syria said to have 'softened' stand vis-a-vis peace talks

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — A message from Syrian leaders carried by French President Jacques Chirac to Israel showed a "softening" of Syria's terms for resuming peace negotiations, Israeli officials were quoted as saying Wednesday.

At a joint press conference with Mr. Chirac on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the French leader had briefed him on 14 hours of talks he had held over the weekend with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"The essence of the message is something positive, but it would be better not to talk about it here while we try to verify this," he said.

But senior government officials were quoted in the Israeli press Wednesday as saying the

softening of the Syrian terms for the resumption of peace talks "which have been frozen since February."

The officials refused to say what the new Syrian terms were or whether the changes were sufficient enough to lead to a quick resumption of talks.

Previously Mr. Assad had insisted the talks be resumed where they broke off with Israel's previous Labour government — with an agreement in principle to trade an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights for peace.

Mr. Netanyahu has rejected this demand, saying he will not be held to unwritten promises made by his predecessors, although he has said he will not rule out including the Golan issue in peace talks.

"We need to cross-check the message brought by Chirac to see if it is indeed the Syrian position," one official said.

Another official was more optimistic, saying, "if what Chirac says is true, it looks like both sides can find a formula that they can live with."

On Tuesday an Israeli journalist who accompanied Mr. Chirac to Damascus quoted a senior Syrian official as warning that "Syria is ready for war (with Israel) if the process towards a political solution remains deadlocked after the U.S. elections" next month.

However, the official also stressed that Damascus does not want another war with Israel and is genuinely looking for a peace agreement with the Jewish state.

## Democratic state alongside Israel is best recipe for peace, Chirac tells Palestinian legislative council

**RAMALLAH (Agencies)** — Greeted by a standing ovation, French President Jacques Chirac told the Palestinian legislature Wednesday that a democratic Palestinian state alongside Israel was the best recipe for Mideast peace.

The 88 lawmakers burst into applause when Mr. Chirac — the first foreign leader to speak before their fledgling national assembly — slammed recent Israeli policies and asserted that "no peace can be achieved by excluding the city of peace, Jerusalem."

Mr. Chirac insisted that France play a greater role in Mideast peace talks, saying it could do better than the Americans in rebuilding faith between Israel and the Palestinians.

"I salute the U.S. role, but I see the peace process losing its breath...because of the loss of trust," Mr. Chirac said. "I see the European and French role in building more trust."

Mr. Chirac urged Palestinian leaders to renounce violence and respect democratic principles as the best means for achieving statehood.

"Reject extremism, push back the forces of hate," Mr. Chirac told the council. "To achieve peace, Israel's legitimate desire for security must be understood and acknowledged by all," he said.

"Once assured of the peaceful intentions of its Arab neighbours, Israel will become convinced that the existence of a Palestinian state does not represent a threat but on the contrary an element of its own security."

Mr. Chirac arrived to a hero's welcome in the self-rule areas after a two-day visit to

Israel during which he repeatedly called for Palestinian independence and lambasted Israel for its heavy-handed actions in Arab East Jerusalem.

In an outburst given front-page coverage across the Palestinian and Arab press, Mr. Chirac on Tuesday exploded into a rage against an oppressive Israeli security presence during a walking tour of East Jerusalem's Old City, screaming at Israeli policemen to "go away." When he flew into this self-rule town by helicopter on Wednesday to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and address the legislature, the French leader was met by thousands of schoolchildren waving French flags and cheering "vive Chirac, vive la France."

Mr. Chirac's speech was repeatedly interrupted by applause from the legislators as he called on Israel's right-wing government to respect the accords it had signed, to halt expansion of Jewish settlements, to lift the eight-month-old closure on the territories and negotiate the future of Jerusalem.

But he also implicitly criticised the functioning of Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in which Mr. Arafat wields virtually all power.

"I hope that you will find the rules which will ensure a balance of power between the executive and the legislative branches," Mr. Chirac told the assembly elected in January.

"The respect of democratic principles is one of the assets which will guarantee you broad international support and strengthen the confidence of your partners," he said.

At a joint press conference, Mr. Arafat

## Palestinians, Israel discuss final phase of security deal on Hebron

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP)** — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators turned Wednesday to the final security issues standing in the way of an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu huddled with his inner security cabinet Wednesday in an extended three-hour meeting to focus on the negotiations, Israel Radio said.

The two sides then sat down for talks in a Jerusalem hotel, joined by

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, who decided in a surprise move Tuesday to extend his intensive mediation of the talks to pursue signs of progress.

Palestinian officials said they want a security deal in Hebron to restrict the movement of armed Jewish settlers in the volatile town.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said a wide gap remained between Israel and the Palestinians in negotiations on implementing an Israeli troop redeployment in Hebron,

home to 400 Jews living among 100,000 Palestinians and a frequent flashpoint of Arab-Israeli violence.

Negotiator Hassan Asfour said: "We have demanded in the talks that Israel restrict the movement of armed Jewish settlers in Hebron following a series of provocations to Palestinians in the city."

"There is a fanatic, terrorist settlers' presence in the city and it is dangerous since they are armed," he said.

(Continued on page 12)

## Yael Dayan gets sympathy call from King

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israeli Deputy Yael Dayan said Wednesday King Hussein had called her to express sympathy and invite her to Jordan after she had received telephone death threats. On Tuesday, a right-wing Jewish extremist threw a cup of scalding tea in her face in Hebron.

Ms. Dayan, a member of the opposition Labour Party, said an unidentified

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## United Nations Day message

By Boutros Boutros-Ghali

THE UNITED NATIONS represents the keystone of the long historic effort for structures of international cooperation in the service of humanity. In the United Nations, for the first time in history, the world found a mechanism for shared endeavour on a truly global scale. In the United Nations, states found an impartial mediator and in United Nations peace-keeping, an essential tool. Entire societies found support for political, economic and social development. All peoples found a supporter of human rights and an advocate of international law.

We must continue to build on our successes. We must not be deterred by setbacks. Let us look forward. Let us continue the work of reform and rationalisation to strengthen and improve international cooperation.

The process of reform and renewal already under way at the United Nations has produced a vision of the future to guide our efforts in the period ahead. It is in essence, a simple vision — a vision of a United Nations that works.

## U.N. Day supplement inside

The will of member states can be mobilised to fulfill this vision of the United Nations. The entire family of nations can demonstrate courage worthy of the vision before us.

A United Nations that works will help all peoples, men, women and children take advantage of emerging opportunities — opportunities the United Nations has helped to bring about — for peace, development and democratisation. A United Nations that works has the capacity to attend to the increasing array of problems beyond the reach or interest of any single state or group of states.

The United Nations provides a unique instrument to translate global consensus into concrete commitments and joint action. Here statehood is reinforced in an emerging international system. Here the weak have a voice that is strong and clear. Here lies the heart of our common endeavour for a better world.

We all have a stake in the world organisation whose sole purpose is common progress. Beyond all the obstacles lie bright prospects for our future — the future of all peoples, and all nations.

In this spirit, let us proudly celebrate United Nations Day 1996.



## Arab press hails French president

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab press on Wednesday slammed Israel and paid tribute to Jacques Chirac after a security row involving the French president's visit to Jerusalem's Old City.

Egypt's opposition daily Al Wafd said in a front-page editorial that "even Chirac was not spared (Israeli) humiliation" when he came up against heavy-handed Israeli security during his visit on Tuesday.

"It is an unprecedented humiliation unknown in the annals of international diplomacy," Al Wafd said.

A furious Chirac berated Israeli security guards when they formed a tight cordon around him during a walking tour of Old Jerusalem on Tuesday, preventing virtually all contact with Palestinian residents.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later apologized for the incident, which Mr. Chirac described as "provocation."

Al Wafd said Israeli leaders "have lost their minds," and the security row was proof "that Israel, under Netanyahu, is leading the region and perhaps the whole world to the edge of the abyss."

The London-based Arab daily Al Hayat said the "attitude of the Israeli government... reflects a gang attitude."

It said intrusive Israeli security implied "the man was a terrorist who had bombs concealed in his clothes."

Al Hayat accused Israel of "arrogance" and urged the Arabs to "weaken Israeli arrogance... because without a weaker Israel there can be no peace."

In Damascus, Syria's government-run press said Mr. Chirac's treatment was a clear sign of Israel's hostile attitude to peace.

"The attitude of Israeli leaders towards Mr. Chirac reveals their deep-rooted hostility to peace and its supporters. It's a provocation against Europe and the rest of the world," the

official daily Tishrin wrote.

Tishrin added: "If they (the Israelis) really wanted the peace process to succeed, they would have welcomed the president's efforts like Syria did" when it gave Mr. Chirac a hero's welcome in Damascus at the start of his six-day Middle East tour on Saturday.

The Gulf Arab press also heaped praise on Mr. Chirac for standing up to Israel. "Jacques Chirac acted like a noble knight," the Saudi daily Al Madina said. "He said what no courageous Arab leader would have been able to say had he been in his shoes. The French president has brought meaning back to Middle East politics," it said.

The Arab press hailed Mr. Chirac's stand on the peace process, which has seen him call for an independent Palestinian state and an Israeli withdrawal from occupied land.

"This positive and courageous position is not a surprise coming from the French president who always stood for justice and peace," the Egyptian government daily Al Akhbar said.

In Iraq, the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said: "France and Europe are filling the gap left by the disappearance of the Soviet Union from the international scene" and called on Arab states to "support France and use its Arab policy to deal with Washington."

In Iran, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati praised Mr. Chirac and welcomed a more "active French political presence" in the region.

Meanwhile, Palestinian newspapers brushed up on their French to welcome Mr. Chirac to the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

"Welcome to Palestine, our friend Chirac," was the French headline splashed across the front page in Al Bilad next to a picture of the French flag.

## Civil servants unpaid since Taleban takeover

KABUL (AFP) — Tens of thousands of civil servants in the Afghan capital have not been paid their salaries since the Taleban militia overran the city nearly a month ago, officials told AFP Wednesday.

Most of the city's administrative cadres were last paid by the now ousted government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani two months ago, although some officials received their paychecks just days before the regime collapsed on Sept. 27.

"I am managing to keep my family fed only by selling what remains of my possessions," lamented office assistant Abdul Rauf, 65, who works in one of the city's main hospitals.

"I haven't been paid for two months and now we barely keep alive by eating water and bread, but (the government) still insists that we come to work."

"If this continues I will have no choice but to give up my job and begin begging," added the worker whose monthly salary is just 120,000 afghanis (\$8).

Other civil servants confirmed that most had not been paid for two months and have approached their new Taleban rulers requesting their salaries.

"Civil servants are in danger of starving as the winter approaches, but we don't see any prospect of payment on the horizon as the Taleban response to our problem has been vague," a senior official said. "It seems that the new government does not have the funds to pay officials," he said. No official comment on the issue was immediately available here.

The former government paid cadres with Afghan bank notes printed in Russia and other countries and shipped to Kabul, a luxury analysts say the Taleban probably do not enjoy as they have not been officially recognized as a government by any country.

"Of course the wholesale printing and distribution of cash caused inflation, but it solved the problem of paying official workers in the short term at least," a Western observer said.

The lack of money is expected to badly affect many families in the war-torn capital around which the first snows of winter have already fallen, aid workers said.

Most families already live on the breadline having sold most of their possessions in previous years to keep themselves alive during the biting cold of Kabul's winters, they added.



An Afghan refugee, his wife and his son walk down the road, 15 kilometres north of the capital during a rare lull on the main battlefield north of Kabul that gave villagers the chance to escape the combat zone (Reuters photo)

Up to 150,000 people, including thousands of women, are believed to be employed by Kabul's civil service, although no exact figure was available from the authorities here.

The Taleban's top leader Mullah Mohammed Omar said earlier this month that thousands of female civil servants — who were barred from working by a Taleban edict issued the day after the seizure of the city — would continue to be paid at home, but cadres say no money has been received.

"Nobody in the administration has

been paid for at least a month, and certainly women have not had their salaries delivered to them," a woman clerk who has been told to stay away from her ministry office said.

"We now have no money coming in at all and have to rely on the kindness of relatives and aid agencies," she added. The Taleban, who sprang up from the Koranic schools of Pakistan two years ago, have begun imposing their strict brand of Islamic law on Kabul since they set up an interim government here last month after ousting the Rabbani government.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli colonel transferred over killing

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has decided to transfer the commander of six soldiers killed in a pitched battle with Palestinian police during last month's outbreak of violence on the West Bank, a military source said Wednesday. The unidentified colonel commanded an infantry unit tasked with guarding Joseph's Tomb, a Jewish holy site at Nablus in the autonomous Palestinian territories. An official inquiry into the incident found serious errors were committed in the despatch of reinforcements to relieve troops fighting Palestinian police surrounding the tomb. It was one of the most serious incidents in three days of clashes that left 80 dead last month when Palestinian frustration spilled over at what was seen as Israeli violation of autonomy accords.

### Sudan opposition says members held

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudan's opposition Umma Party of former Prime Minister Sadek Al Mehdi on Wednesday charged that the authorities have arrested several of its members. "The Umma Party denounces the recent illegal arrests and detentions carried out by some members of the regime," said the party, in a statement received in the Egyptian capital. The Umma Party also called for international and regional human rights groups to intervene, adding that the arrests coincided with economic and other hardships. It said they came as the Umma Party was preparing to celebrate next week in Omdurman, Sudan's twin capital, the 100th anniversary of the death of Imam Abdul Rahman Al Mehdi whose father fought British forces. The members arrested or detained earlier this month were identified as officials in charge of the celebrations, especially members of the Islamic group Ansar linked to Umma. It identified six people, five of whom have been brought in for questioning daily since mid-October.

### Jihad journalist arrested in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police have jailed for a second time a journalist with close links to Islamic Jihad, a journalists' union official said here Wednesday. Adnan Abu Husna, a former editor with Jihad's newspaper Istiqlal, was arrested Tuesday night, said the head of the union in Gaza, Zakaria Al Talmas. Mr. Talmas said the union has intervened to demand the journalist's release, but police told them that Mr. Abu Husna's arrest was "not related to his work as a journalist" and he remains in custody. Mr. Abu Husna was freed two weeks ago after being imprisoned in Gaza for 40 days without charge, Mr. Talmas said, adding that Mr. Abu Husna resigned from his post as Istiqlal editor following his release.

### Iran invites U.S. wrestlers

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has invited the U.S. wrestling team to take part in the world cup to be held here next month, the first time it has issued an invitation to U.S. athletes since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Aref Rabi, secretary of Iran's wrestling federation, said the U.S. national team had not yet announced whether it would participate in the competition, although U.S. wrestling officials had earlier promised to attend. "If the U.S. team decides not to attend, we will lodge a complaint with the international amateur wrestling federation, because we attended (last year's) competition in the United States," the official news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Rabi as saying on Wednesday. Diplomatic relations have been severed between Tehran and Washington since the revolution which toppled the pro-American Shah and the two countries have been at loggerheads on nearly all issues since. "If the Americans choose not to come it will prove their false claim to separation of sports from politics," Mr. Rabi said. "I believe the Americans are afraid of losing and raising questions about their world and Olympic titles."

### Algerian president visits Qatar

DOHA (AFP) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual arrived Wednesday in Doha for a two-day visit following a trip to Vietnam, the Qatari News Agency said. Mr. Zeroual, making his first official visit to Qatar since he was elected in November 1995, was met at the airport by the emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani. Political sources here said the visit was aimed at boosting cooperation in gas and oil production. Mr. Zeroual has been on tour since October 15, visiting Bahrain, China and Vietnam.

## Egypt evacuates pregnant woman from border

CAIRO (AP) — A pregnant woman who is bleeding and in danger of losing her child was evacuated by Egypt on Wednesday from a squalid border camp housing some 100 Palestinians expelled from Libya.

Security officials said the woman was taken to a hospital in the Mediterranean town of Mersa Matruh. Her condition was not immediately known. The action came after the Cairo office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Tuesday appealed to Egypt and Libya to help some 21 Palestinians at the camp said to have emergency health problems.

Mohammad Boukry, head of the UNHCR's office, said that six pregnant women at the camp needed

medical attention and complained that both Egyptian and Libyan authorities had refused to let them travel to nearby hospitals.

Others suffer from high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes.

Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi began expelling Palestinians in September 1995 to demonstrate his opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

Most of the 2,000 people thrown out of Libya made it to the autonomous Palestinian areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or to other Arab countries.

Those stranded between the Libyan and Egyptian borders at a make-shift camp are mainly descendants of Palestinians who fled their homes with the creation of

## More than 100 die in Sudan floods

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Recent floods in southern Sudan have killed 102 people and displaced more than 8,000 others, the independent daily Alwan reported on Wednesday. It quoted John Dor, minister of state in the federal government, as saying that 52 people died in the Bor area while 50 others were killed by the floods in Tonj, southern Sudan. More than 8,000 others were made homeless in Wau, the capital of Bahar Ghazal state in south Sudan, the daily said. Dor, who is the chairman of a relief committee for flood victims, said a delegation would travel to the stricken areas next week to evaluate the situation.

The woman evacuated Wednesday was identified as Ferial Mahmoud Ali, believed to be in her 30s. Palestinians said she had lost a child last year, shortly after the family was expelled from Libya to the camp.

Egyptian security officials at the border said on Tuesday that Palestinians had complained that Libyan officials turned down an appeal from Ali's husband to move her to a Libyan hospital. Egypt's Middle East news agency said that Egypt's defence minister, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, ordered a military medical team on Tuesday to look into the woman's plight.

## Sudanese pilot defects with jet to Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH (AP) — A defecting Sudanese fighter pilot has flown his Chinese-made jet to Saudi Arabia, where he is expected to seek political asylum, a Saudi security source said Wednesday.

The pilot — identified in Khartoum by Sudanese state-run television as Ahmad Abul Jasim Ahmed — was being questioned by Saudi security personnel, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. In Khartoum, Sudan's armed forces general command confirmed that one of its F-6 jets was diverted to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday during a routine

## Sudanese pilot defects with jet to Saudi Arabia

military exercise. The single-seat F-6 is the Chinese equivalent of the supersonic Russian-made MIG-19 jet. Both are old model warplanes.

A Sudanese military spokesman said the defection was under investigation and that Saudi authorities had been asked to return the jet. The spokesman did not mention the pilot. Saudi authorities told Sudan they would return the plane Wednesday, the Saudi source said.

Passenger jets have been hijacked from Sudan, but there have been no reports in recent years of military pilots defecting with their planes.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

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## PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 .....Iris  
14:15 .....Orid and the Gang  
14:30 .....Take Your Pick  
15:00 .....Coronation Cress  
15:20 Feature Film: Something for Joey  
17:00 .....News Flash  
17:01 .....Feature film (continued)  
18:00 .....Le Monde Est a Vous  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....U.N. Facts  
20:01 American Chart Show  
20:30 .....Drama — Material World  
21:00 .....Kung Fu  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 Feature Film: Survive the Savage Sea  
23:59 .....Taratata

## PRAYER TIMES

04:24 .....Fajr  
05:41 .....(Sunrise) Dhuha  
11:20 .....Dhuhr  
14:29 .....Asr  
16:59 .....Maghreb  
18:16 .....Isha

## CHURCHES

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Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
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Armenian Orthodox Church  
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771751.  
Armenian International Church  
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Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
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Church of Nazareth Tel.  
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The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
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Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh .....819230  
Dr. Rabi Sukkar .....856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib .....865456  
Dr. Yusef Al Fagih .....780104  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asena pharmacy .....637055  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672  
Najib pharmacy .....847632

## IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qam .....281484  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

## ZARQA:

Dr. Rabah Al Bourini .....990312  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department  
661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue  
661111  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111,

Amman .....13/23  
Aqaba .....18/30

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Relative cloud weather conditions will prevail with skies partly cloudy. Rainfall is expected in the northern parts of the Kingdom with winds westerly moderate to active. On Friday, temperatures will dip further and rain is expected in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Deserts .....10/25  
Jordan Valley .....18/30  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 22, Aqaba 30 Humidity  
readings: Amman 46 per cent,  
Aqaba 43 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh .....819230  
Dr. Rabi Sukkar .....856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib .....865456  
Dr. Yusef Al Fagih .....780104  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asena pharmacy .....637055  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
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637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department  
630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints  
897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints  
878111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs  
661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority  
815615

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Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital  
667277/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen  
777101/3  
Al-Bashir, .....775111/26  
Army, Marks .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital  
602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart  
and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarga Govt. Hospital  
(09)983323  
Zarga National Hospital  
(09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital  
(09)990990

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tion department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 .....Beirut (RJ)  
06:15 .....Moscow (RJ)  
07:00 .....Zagreb (add) (RJ)  
10:25 .....Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
11:15 .....Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
11:15 .....Rome (RJ)  
11:30 .....Aqaba, Paris (RJ)  
11:30 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
12:20 .....Athens (RJ)  
12:25 .....London (RJ)  
19:35 .....Lamaca (RJ)  
20:10 .....Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
20:45 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:20 Abu Dhabi Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
21:30 .....Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (add) (RJ)  
22:00 .....Jakarta (RJ)  
06:00 .....Aqaba (RJ)

## Other Flights

06:45 .....Beirut, London (BA)  
07:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
13:40 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
14:30 .....Riyadh (SV)  
15:00 .....Algiers (AH)  
20:25 .....Cairo (MS)  
21:15 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)  
23:40 .....Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
05:00 .....Istanbul (TK)  
05:40 .....London (RJ)

## Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 .....Aqaba (RW)  
18:45 .....Tel Aviv (RW)

## HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....500/500  
Banana (mulhammar) .....420/420  
Banana (imported) .....850/650  
Cabbage .....120/60  
Carrot .....280/150  
Cauliflower .....260/180  
Cucumber (large) .....180/120  
Cucumber (small) .....330/170  
Eggplant .....210/120  
Garlic .....720/500  
Grapes .....450/420  
Guava .....550/200  
Lemon .....360/200  
Marrow (large) .....220/140  
Marrow (small) .....350/220  
Mulukhiyah .....220/110  
Onion (green) .....280/180  
Onion (dry) .....140/80  
Okra .....850/500  
Olive .....580/400  
Pear .....600/420  
Pepper (hot) .....360/200  
Pepper (sweet) .....360/200  
Pomegranate .....320/250  
Potato .....320/180  
Spinach .....280/180  
String Bean .....550/350  
Tomato .....240/160







## Norwegian premier resigns

OSLO (AFP) — Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland stunned Norway Wednesday by abruptly announcing her resignation but refused to say if she was leaving to angle for the U.N. secretary general's post.

The move brings down the Labour government in power since 1990, but opens the way for Ms. Brundtland's protégé, party leader Thorbjørn Jagland, to take over as head of the next government.

Ms. Brundtland said her resignation would take effect Friday and that she would ask King Harald V to name Mr. Jagland, 45, as her successor.

Ms. Brundtland said she had made the decision to resign a year ago.

She did not give a reason for stepping down but it has been speculated that the 57-

year old Gro, as she is popularly called in Norway, made the move now to make herself available for a top international assignment.

Her name has been tossed around in New York as a possible successor to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, whose term ends at the end of the year.

Ms. Brundtland has so far refused to get embroiled in the controversy surrounding Dr. Ghali, diplomatically underlining that she is not a candidate as long as the U.N. has a secretary general. But insiders have long maintained that the post is right up her alley.

Asked by reporters Wednesday if she would seek a job as head of an international organisation, she replied only: "I will return to parliament as a simple deputy."

She said that she chose to announce her resignation Wednesday, two weeks before a Labour Party congress, in order to give the party time to prepare for the next general elections in September.

"The first year after Norway rejected membership in the EU was not a suitable time to announce my resignation," she said.

In 1994 Norwegians rejected membership in the EU by a vote of 52.2 per cent versus 47.8, a crushing defeat for Ms. Brundtland who had fought hard to get her country a spot in the union.

Ms. Brundtland assured that the transition would be a smooth one.

"This is a change in the team, not in policy," she said, adding that she was "100 per cent sure that Mr. Jagland will be the best can-

didate" to head the government.

Mr. Jagland has for a long time been regarded as the natural successor to Ms. Brundtland. Political circles had speculated that Ms. Brundtland would resign to make room for Mr. Jagland, but had not expected the decision so soon.

She made the announcement during a question-and-answer session in parliament. After she dropped the bombshell, the parliamentary session was halted and the deputies left in a state of confusion.

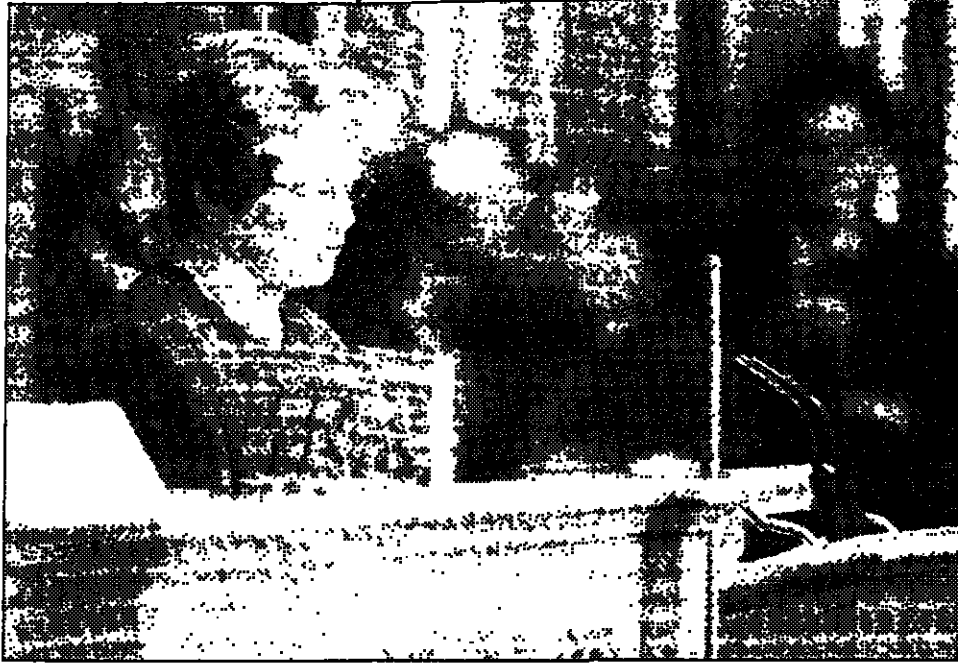
Apart from King Harald V, only the Speaker of Parliament, Kirsti Kolle Grondahl, and Mr. Jagland knew of Ms. Brundtland's plans in advance.

Ms. Brundtland, the first woman to head the Norwegian government, has been prime minister three times: from February to October of 1981, from 1986 to 1989 and since 1990. She resigned as Labour Party leader in 1992 after the suicide of her son, but remained premier.

Ms. Brundtland, who has reputation as a champion of developing countries, women's rights and the environment, summed up her 10 years in power by saying Wednesday that she thought she had "done a good job."

On the international scene, she said she was most "proud" of her contribution to the creation of the European economic area, which groups members of the EU and the European Free Trade Association.

Her biggest regret, she added, is that Norway was remained outside the EU.



Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland (left) speaks to the Norwegian parliament as she announces her resignation on Oct. 23. Fifty-seven-year-old Brundtland saw it fit to step down after dominating Norwegian politics in the 1980's and 90's (Reuters photo)

## Signs emerge of breakup of Japan opposition party

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto may be having a hard time finding coalition partners, but things looked worse Wednesday for Japan's main opposition party, which showed signs of breaking up.

Sources in Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) said widespread discontent had erupted in the party against maverick leader Ichiro Ozawa.

"We should opt for a negotiated divorce," the sources quoted ex-Premier Morihiro Hosokawa as telling Mr. Ozawa Tuesday night.

Mr. Hosokawa and another former prime minister, Tsutomu Hata, lead a faction that has always chafed under Mr. Ozawa's leadership.

Shinshinto managed a dismal 154 lower house seats in Sunday's election, four fewer than in the old parliament, and Mr. Ozawa bore the brunt of the blame for the defeat.

Several anti-Ozawa lawmakers said they were ready to leave because of what they described as Ozawa's autocratic leadership.

In the ruling camp Mr. Hashimoto, although assured of remaining prime minister, ran into trouble in his bid to put together a coalition to help his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) govern when the co-leader of the Democratic Party sig-

nalled his intention of staying in opposition rather than join an LDP coalition.

With 52 seats in the powerful lower house, the Democrats hold a key to a stable majority for Mr. Hashimoto's would-be coalition. In Sunday's election, the LDP won 239 seats, 12 seats short of a majority in the 500-seat chamber.

The LDP is courting its partners in the outgoing coalition, the Social Democrats and the tiny Sakigake Party, and also wants to add the Democrats. The Social Democrats have 15 seats and Sakigake just two.

"Now is the time for us to hunker down," Democratic Party co-leader Yukio Hatoyama told Reuters Financial Television.

"No decision has been made since we have not yet been officially approached by the LDP, but basically, I believe our stance should be to start off as an opposition party."

Mr. Hatoyama, a former Sakigake leader and a one-time member of the reformist bloc which ended the LDP's 38-year monopoly on power in 1993, said the Democrats were concerned their voices would be drowned out in a coalition.

"Fifty-two seats is not enough," he said.

Sakigake looks set to join a Hashimoto-led government, but the Social

Democrats — whose backing is needed for smooth handling of the upper house especially — have yet to decide.

Socialist head Takako Doi has been cool to the idea, but upper house members of her party are pushing to join the ruling camp.

Mr. Hatoyama said a conservative alliance of the LDP and defectors from Shinshinto could not be ruled out.

He said that with more than 50 seats, the Democrats — ardent advocates of trimming down government and reducing bureaucrats' grip on policy — would still have the ability to introduce bills into parliament as an opposition party.

He questioned the LDP's commitment to such changes, even though Mr. Hashimoto made calls for "administrative reform" a centerpiece of his campaign.

Mr. Hatoyama said for the Democrats, the best outcome would be for the LDP to form a stand-alone, minority government.

"Then we would support those policies we thought right and oppose those we didn't," he said.

Mr. Hashimoto wants to work out the shape of his government by early November so parliament can convene on Nov. 7 to formally reappoint the prime minister.

## N. Korea says don't meddle with missile test

TOKYO (R) — North Korea has said no country has the right to interfere with another country's missile tests, state media said Wednesday.

It was Pyongyang's first official reaction to a U.S. warning to North Korea to not carry out missile tests.

"The United States and some other countries are making a fuss over the rumors that the DPRK (North Korea) is preparing for a medium-range missile firing test," a spokesman for the North Korean foreign ministry said in a statement carried on the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"In a bid to draw public attention, they describe this as 'causing the tensions' and pretend to be concerned over the situation on the Korean peninsula."

"As far as the missile firing test is concerned, it belongs to our sovereignty, and no one else is entitled or has any ground to meddle with it," the statement said in a report monitored in Tokyo.

It did not say whether North Korea was actually preparing such a test.

"When a missile is developed and conditions are ripe, we may test-fire the missile at any time we think fit and in this or that way. For others to talk about this affair is something arrogant yet ridiculous and a wanton infringement on our sovereignty," the North Korean statement said.

Last Friday, the United States said it had sent a "very strong message" to North Korea not to carry out a medium-range ballistic missile test that Pyongyang was reported to have been preparing.

"We have conveyed a very strong message to the North Koreans that they ought not to undertake such a test," state department spokesman Nicholas Burns told a news briefing in Washington.



Rwandan refugees flee Uvira refugee camps towards the town of Bukavu in Zaire on Oct. 22. Fighting rages on between the Zairean army and Tutsi militia in eastern Zaire in a bid to forcefully move the Tutsi back to their countries of origin in Rwanda and Burundi (Reuters photo)

## Aid agencies warn of catastrophe in Zaire

BUKAVU, Zaire (R) — Aid agencies warned Wednesday of catastrophe facing hundreds of thousands of people in eastern Zaire as refugees and others fled fighting.

Aid workers said that unless food arrived within days in the town of Bukavu, hundreds of thousands of Rwandan and Burundian refugees and displaced Zairean civilians would go hungry.

"We are definitely facing a looming catastrophe if food supplies cannot arrive in Bukavu. We need food there immediately to go ahead for the distribution scheduled for Nov. 3," said U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) spokeswoman Brenda Barton.

She said the WFP supply to Goma town, north of Bukavu, was cut when Zaire closed its borders with Uganda, stranding 2,500 tonnes of food in 68 trucks for camps in Zaire on the frontier.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday he feared fighting between the army and ethnic Tutsis would deteriorate further and that there would be confrontation between Zaire and Rwanda.

Eastern Zaire has been set to explode in ethnic violence since genocide and civil war in Rwanda in 1994 sent more than a million Hutu refugees streaming in, stoking local rivalries.

But fighting has widened in the last six weeks since Zairean troops joined ethnic

clashes between Tutsis, who have lived in Zaire for generations and are known as Banyamulenge, and native Zaireans.

U.N. officials say they fear an emergency similar to the 1994 Rwanda genocide and refugee exodus and are concerned at the possibility of regional conflict involving Rwanda and Burundi.

Aid workers said some 36,000 refugees abandoned Nyangenzi and Nyangenzi-Mulwa camps southwest of Bukavu Tuesday and they estimated up to 50,000 refugees and displaced Zaireans crossed from Uvira area into south Bukavu on the same day.

"These people are moving not only north but west to camps southwest of Bukavu but as many are travelling through the hills their numbers are hard to estimate," said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"About 1,000 people had arrived on the southern edges of Bukavu town by Tuesday night and this morning," he added.

Aid workers said 700 refugees per hour Tuesday were passing their hospital at Nyangenzi, 22 kilometres south of Bukavu, heading for the border town, which has enough food for only a few days.

Mr. Stromberg said 12 refugees crossed from Zaire into Rwanda on Tuesday but UNHCR was planning it would receive 75,000

Aid workers said Wednesday angry Zaireans armed with spears and machetes tried to block their evacuation from eastern Zaire and it was impossible for aid agencies to work in Uvira town as nervous Zairean soldiers were looting agency vehicles.

"I wasn't really afraid of the Banyamulenge. I was more afraid of defeated soldiers," said one aid worker, who declined to be identified but was evacuated from Bukavu, north of Uvira.

They said aid workers trying to reach Uvira airport Monday to take a flight out were confronted by crowds of angry Zaireans wearing red bandannas and armed with spears, machetes and stones.

Zairean troops escorting the aid workers opened fire mostly in the air and one person in the crowd was killed, they added.

Troops cleared militia roadblocks from the route to Uvira airport Tuesday, allowing a total of 58 foreign aid workers, the last in Uvira, to be evacuated to Bukavu, Uganda and Kenya.

"People are bitter as they feel the international community is abandoning them to the Banyamulenge," one aid worker said.

They said they estimated 78 people were killed and 60 wounded when fighting between Banyamulenge, Zairean militias and Zairean troops broke out at Kiliba airstrip 15 kilometres from Uvira Friday.

## Lioness takes cat-nap in Chilean family's bed

SANTIAGO (AFP) — An African lioness, who escaped from a traveling circus in the Chilean town of El Melon Tuesday, opted to lie down on the lam in a terrified family's bedroom for an extended catnap. She was awakened and captured by her keepers with the help of Chilean police. "Sussy" was able to flee when one of her keepers forgot to close the door to her cage after retrieving some lion cubs, said the owner of the traveling circus at El Melon, 80 kilometres northeast of here. "We were chatting when we heard something at the door," said Leontina Maureira, who was with her mother inside the house visited by the sleepy lion. "I told my mother it was a lion, but she refused to believe me until she saw the animal lying on the bed," Maureira added.

## Scottish soccer team seek revenge 111 years later

GLASGOW (R) — More than a century after Arbroath beat Bon Accord 36-0 for the biggest victory in first class soccer history, the clubs are preparing for a re-match. They will meet again Sunday to mark the opening of a new sports club in Bon Accord's home city of Aberdeen. The players and officials will be in period kit and fans will be asked to play their part by dressing up. Arbroath, who play in the Scottish third division and Bon Accord, who perform in junior soccer, met in their historic encounter on Sept. 12, 1885. Bon Accord, who at the time were formed mainly of cricketers rather than soccer players, turned up at Arbroath with only nine men and had to recruit two more from the crowd. Things started badly and then got worse for Bon Accord who trailed 15-0 at half-time. They were 20-0 down within 15 minutes of the re-start and conceded another 16 before the referee mercifully brought an end to their suffering.

## Lesbian policewoman given paternity leave

STOCKHOLM (R) — A lesbian policewoman has been allowed to take paternity leave by Sweden's National Social Insurance Office. Swedish News Agency (TT) reported. The policewoman, identified as "Pia", and her registered partner "Monica", also a policewoman, won an appeal against an insurance office decision that initially denied them the right to the same benefits as a heterosexual couple. Monica gave birth last winter to a daughter, conceived by artificial insemination, but attempts to transfer some of her one-year maternity leave to Pia — a practice common among heterosexual couples — were rejected. But after a change of heart, the insurance office has declared that Monica and Pia have "the same rights as in a conventional marriage," TT said.

## Indonesia drops ad that puts hair above army

JAKARTA — Two Indonesian television stations have dropped an advertisement for a hair cream after the armed forces complained that it appeared to belittle military service. The Republik newspaper reported. The ad shows a young man with a wavy lock across his forehead speaking on the telephone to his girlfriend who says it is a pity he will be entering Akabri, the academy for military officers, because he will have to cut his hair. Senior military officers said they were concerned the ad could give the impression that a man's hairstyle was more important than his career as a military officer. Republik said, "We have not asked for the advertisement to be pulled, only revised a little." Lieutenant-Colonel Surachman, academy spokesman, was quoted as saying.

## Fire kills 30 in Venezuelan jail

CARACAS (R) — The charred bodies of 30 prisoners were removed from a tense Venezuelan jail Tuesday night after a fire that was apparently caused by tear gas canisters fired by guards, prison officials said.

Other prisoners had prevented the bodies from being moved until journalists had been allowed to enter the jail.

According to local radio reports, 29 of the dead inmates have been identified but prison officials declined to give a precise death toll.

"We are making a list ... There are about 25 to 30 dead. There are burned bodies on top of each other," national prisons director Antonio Marval told reporters outside La Planta jail on the southwestern outskirts of the capital.

Human rights activists and some officials earlier said the death toll could be as high as 40.

The fire started when national guardsmen closed off a wing of the prison and threw tear gas canisters inside, Mr. Marval said. "We could be talking about murder here," he added.

A Reuters photographer who entered the cramped and blackened area where the fire occurred counted more than 20 bodies, many of them burned beyond recognition. Several prisoners had tried in vain to escape the flames by hiding under beds. Others were fused together, clinging to one another as they died.

Prison inmates insisted that the guards started the fire without cause and Defence Minister Nicolas Valencia said he has ordered the arrest of six guards involved in the incident.

Hours after the fire it was still not clear why the guards locked up the prisoners or how the tear gas canisters started the fire.





A CDF tanker plane drops retardant over a home about to be engulfed by flames in northern San Diego County, California on Oct. 22. The wildfire has already destroyed scores of homes and properties in southern California (Reuter photo)

## 6 firefighters injured battling California blaze

MALIBU, California (R) — Six firemen were injured Tuesday battling wildfires that burned more than 80 homes and consumed over 20,000 acres (8,000 hectares) across southern California.

The largest of a half-dozen major blazes continued to threaten the celebrity enclave of Malibu, where firemen were trapped in their truck by a sudden flare-up in a steep canyon.

Deputy Fire Chief Dave Parsons said at least one of the six men was seriously burned, and they were airlifted to a Los Angeles hospital.

"They were trying to reach a burning house when 'the fire just boiled up on them,'" Mr. Parsons said. "They were unable to continue... Because of a car blocking the road."

Asked why the men did not abandon their vehicle and run, Parsons said, "you can't run away from a freight train."

The large, expensive house the firemen were trying to save was destroyed, bringing the total number of homes burned in the Malibu wildfire to four. Eleven people, most of them firefighters, have been injured so far in the blaze.

Firefighters backed by water-dropping tanker planes and helicopters and aided by lighter winds struggled to control the Malibu fire and others burning in southern California, but with varying degrees of success.

The Malibu fire raced across the Santa Monica Mountains to the sea Monday. By Tuesday it had charred more than 13,000 acres (5,000 hectares) and forced several thousand people out of their homes. Flames Tuesday continued to pose a serious danger to Malibu and other coastal communities.

Authorities said the fire was only 10 per cent contained and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency.

The latest rash of wildfires struck almost three years to

the day after a firestorm swept southern California from the Mexican border north to Malibu, destroying nearly 1,000 homes.

In San Diego County, authorities said a firestorm gutted at least 70 homes overnight in Carlsbad and San Marcos. Carlsbad Police Lt. Greg Fried said the damage estimate was "extremely conservative" and more than 80 homes may actually have been lost in the 6,000-acre (2,400-hectare) blaze.

Gov. Pete Wilson Tuesday declared a state of emergency for San Diego County, freeing up state emergency funds.

Authorities said the Carlsbad fire, which broke out in the Elfin Forest Monday and quickly spread to canyons lined with homes about 25 kilometres north of San Diego, was the most destructive fire in San Diego County in over a decade.

Hundreds of Carlsbad residents were evacuated and four firefighters suffered smoke-related eye injuries.

Officials said the fire was 50 per cent contained with full containment hoped for by Wednesday night.

Another fire that sprang up overnight in the Otay Mountains southeast of San Diego had consumed 9,000 acres (2,000 hectares) and had forced the closure of the Otay Mesa border crossing with Mexico.

A blaze on the Rincon Indian Reservation north of San Diego which started Monday night consumed 1,200 acres (500 hectares) and destroyed six structures.

Malibu was the focal point of a massive firefighting effort Tuesday after a three kilometre-wide wall of smoke and flame roared across the Santa Monica Mountains from Calabasas, 55 kilometres northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Fuelled by fierce, dry Santa Ana winds, flames raced to the coast in less than six hours, threatening seaside mansions and beachfront bungalows.

## U.S. cargo plane explodes in mid-air, killing 100 in Ecuador

MANTA, Ecuador (AFP) — A U.S. Boeing 707 cargo plane exploded in mid-air shortly after takeoff from the port city of Manta in southeastern Ecuador, raining down flaming wreckage and killing around 100 people, witnesses said.

"It was like an enormous mushroom that formed in the sky," one witness told AFP, saying the wreckage of the plane in the explosion Tuesday landed on houses and sparked butane gas explosions.

Fire raced through an area of at least 400 metres as firefighters and police rushed to the area.

President Abdala Bucaram, visibly saddened by the tragedy, rushed to Manta from Guayaquil, where he had arrived Tuesday from a visit to the United States.

Initial reports put the death toll at 10 but two hours after the explosion police, rescue crews, and Red Cross officials at the scene said the final death toll could reach 100.

"There are dead people all over the place," said a man who worked his hands bloody digging in the rubble for victims.

A civil defense spokesman said many of the victims were trapped under the crumbled remains of their homes. "I've never seen anything like this. This is hell," he said.

Twenty bodies have so far been taken to an area hospital, said Patricia Ramos of Radio Quito, adding that rescue crews were working in the darkness with flashlights and floodlights.

Firefighters, who were lacking enough water to quell the flames, said 50 injured people were taken to a local hospital.

Hospital officials have made public calls for blood donors to treat the injured who are mostly suffering burns.

The plane, a Boeing 707 according to Mr. Ramos, belonged to a company called Millon Air and was carrying a crew of three and a cargo of frozen fish.

It landed at Manta to load 14,000 gallons of fuel for its flight to Miami, Florida.

said Marco Mejia, who was working in the control tower at Eloy Alfaro Airport.

"The plane exploded a minute and a half to two minutes after taking off at 10:42 p.m. (0342 GMT), he said.

"From the control tower we saw it explode, but we don't know the cause," Mr. Mejia told AFP, adding that there had been no distress signal from the crew of the cargo plane before the explosion.

"Everything went normally and we were surprised to see it explode," he said.

Unconfirmed reports said one of the plane's wings hit the spire of a church. Mr. Mejia said, adding that the parson at that church was missing.

Other witnesses reported seeing one of the plane's engines on fire before the blast.

"The plane flew very low over my house so I went outside with some of my

relatives and we saw one of the plane's wings on fire," said Alberto Ovalle.

"It was flying so low that it sent zinc shingles shooting off many roofs and two houses in La Dolorosa crumbled. A shop owner was crushed under one house," said Mr. Ovalle, who believed one of the plane's wings struck the roofs of some homes and clipped the church spire.

"It all happened so fast," he added.

Mr. Mejia said the three crew members of the cargo plane were apparently U.S. nationals, adding that the fires sparked by the blazing wreckage fell on four blocks of the city's central neighborhood of La Dolorosa, where some 500,000 people live.

The airport, Mr. Mejia said, has been closed to air traffic.

Manta Mayor Jorge Zambrano told AFP he would call three days of mourning in this port city some 260 kilometres west of Quito.

## Dole promises come-from-behind win in two weeks

TROY, Michigan (R) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole told voters Tuesday to ignore polls and pundits who say the presidential race is all but over and promised a come-from-behind victory on Nov. 5.

On the final day of a two-day bus tour through central Michigan, Sen. Dole charged that President Bill Clinton had built a record of broken promises and touted his own plan for a 15 per cent tax cut.

With only two weeks remaining until the election, several new national polls showed Sen. Dole trailing Mr. Clinton by more than 20 points. The Reuters-Zogby daily tracking poll showed Mr. Clinton at 46

per cent and Sen. Dole at 34.7 per cent.

But Sen. Dole reached back to 1948, when President Harry Truman came from behind in the polls to win a stunning Democratic victory over Republican Thomas Dewey. "I'm like Harry Truman. I'm from the midwest and I'm plain-spoken and I'm going to win whether you like it or not. I'm going to win on Nov. 5," Sen. Dole told a rally in Troy.

Claiming Mr. Clinton would promise anything to get elected, Sen. Dole said "anything you ever wanted in your life, the next two weeks is the time to write the president. You can just give me a note, I'll take it to him. I may want something

myself."

At every stop he called for a change in the law to bar non-citizens from contributing to political campaigns. The Democratic National Committee has come under fire for accepting contributions from individuals with ties to the Lippo Group Indonesian banking and real estate conglomerate.

But the Clinton campaign has begun fighting back, running an ad accusing Sen. Dole of desperation tactics for bringing up the issue this late in the campaign and pointing out contributions to Sen. Dole's campaign from people who are not U.S. citizens.

Asked if his attacks on Mr. Clinton were backfiring as some polls indicated

Tuesday, Sen. Dole said, "I don't think so."

Sen. Dole picked up the support of rock star Ted Nugent, who appeared on the stage at the Troy rally, along with local state officials and police officers.

Nugent said he had long backed Republican ideas. "There's a lot of people that are represented by the Republican attitude that are seldom heard from. We call it the ponytail vote," he said.

He also said he supported Sen. Dole's anti-drug stance, claiming, "I've probably busted more hippies' noses than all the narcs in North America."

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### Celebrating bond to France

THE REVERBERATIONS that the visit of the French President Jacques Chirac has created in the Middle East region reached Jordan well before he arrived here yesterday. Those reverberations have been highly positive, as far as anyone could see; and they have been as much appreciated in Jordan as in Syria, among the Palestinians and throughout the Arab World.

President Chirac's cordial and supportive talks with the Palestinian leadership culminated in delivering an historic speech before the legislative council in Ramallah, leaving the Palestinians with greater hope of achieving self-determination and ultimately progress and prosperity. The president then broke new grounds in Jerusalem when he defied Israel's claim of sovereignty over the Holy City and stuck to his guns that it should be open for all three monotheistic religions. Likewise, the French leader's visit to Syria was productive, and promising to advance the peace process forward.

It goes without saying that when the president of France speaks on the Middle East, he expresses the will of his European partners. The clearer the European message is on the need to move forward with the peace effort, the easier it would be for all sides to get serious with drawing the parameters for a just and lasting settlement in the region.

Notwithstanding Israeli protestations and resistance, Europe has a major role to play in the politics and development of this region. The European Union (EU) is a major financier of the peace process. Over 75 per cent of the international aid to the Palestinian National Authority comes from Europe. Equally important, is the fact the EU is the largest trade partner for Israel. About 60 per cent of Israeli exports are sold in European markets. In real terms, this means an economic clout that Israel cannot ignore, even if the Israelis wished to do so.

The pressure that President Chirac put on Israel especially during his visit there, combined with that of the Arabs and many Western countries, will ultimately drive home the message to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that his headline policies towards the Arabs will not bring peace any closer. Determination by Europe to press its points of view can only increase the chances that the Israeli government will heed the calls of reason and legitimacy and give up the arrogance with which it has been approaching the peace process.

In the Arab World, the sound positions of Mr. Chirac will reverberate for long. Those positions can give Arab negotiators necessary political and moral support. But the Arabs cannot insist on a greater role for Europe unless the Europeans demonstrate willingness to go all the way in fighting for it.

During his stay in Jordan, the French president will meet a wise and an experienced host who shares his views on the Middle East and welcomes a greater political and economic European role in this part of the world. His Majesty King Hussein was among the first to stress the importance of French presence and experience in efforts to advance the peace talks. Jordan has gone a long way in trying to build real peace in the Middle East. France understands that and can only support the Jordanian stand. The similar Jordanian-French outlook on regional issues is matched by a history of cooperation and mutual respect in bilateral relations. In Jordan, President Chirac will be amongst friends with whom the agreements far outweigh the differences. That makes for a productive, and indeed very warm, visit and political exchange.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ARABS and the Israelis are separated by wide differences over numerous issues, particularly the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands, and it will take only fair and neutral mediation to reconcile such differences, said a writer for Al Ra'i. Fahed Faneh said the United States, which has proved to be hostile to the Arabs, continually providing Israel with military and economic assistance and imposes siege and sanctions on Iraq, Libya and Sudan, is definitely not eligible to play the role of peace mediator which should be characterised by integrity, honesty and fairness, he said. When the Arabs accepted Washington to play the role of peace mediator, they had hoped that it would respect the requirements of that particular role; they also believed that Washington was the only power that can exercise pressure and influence on the Jewish state, continued the writer. He said now the Arabs are welcoming the emergence of the European role and are appreciating what France is doing to help the Arabs and the Palestinians regain their right. France, being a fair arbiter and a proponent of justice and equality, is qualified to play this role on the part of Europe, stressed the writer. He said Europe, which imports 40 per cent of Israel's goods and continually provides it with financial assistance, is definitely capable of playing an effective role in the peace process.

### The View from Academia

## European involvement in Mideast peace is essential

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

DESPITE THE Israeli government's resistance to it (or, should we say, because of such resistance) the European resolve to play a role in the establishment of Mideast peace (a resolve expressed in the most eloquent terms during French President Jacques Chirac's present tour of the region and before the tour by several European envoys and leaders) is not only a step in the right direction but one which will bring about immediate as well as long-term beneficial results.

Let me, first of all, make one point crystal clear. I do firmly believe that the fewer the parties involved in the actual process of negotiations, the better. I have never really been impressed by calls for international conferences and for involving as many "patrons," "sponsors," "partners," etc. as possible in the actual process of negotiating a settlement for the Mideast conflict. It would not be far-fetched to assert that among the factors obstructing and delaying the implementation of the settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the sixties, seventies, and part of the eighties was the involvement of (or the attempt to involve) too many parties. As we say in Arabic, too many cooks spoil the meal.

The peace process started to move confidently in the direction of settlement and peace agreements became possible only when the parties to the conflict branched off after the Madrid conference and started negotiating directly and independently. This we understand perfectly.

However, what happens when the peace process reaches a stalemate or, perhaps, even a dead end? The Palestinians and Israelis, since the advent of the present government, have failed to agree on the implementation of what has been agreed upon, despite Washington's active role and presence. What is the cause of the stalemate? It is not so much, judging from what we have seen and heard in the past few months, details here and there and specific points, but the unhealthy attitude and the obstructionist policies the Israeli government has been adopting. For reasons which are tied to the presidential elections and for reasons which go beyond elections (i.e. the very peculiar, sensitive nature of the relationship between the U.S. and Israel) the U.S. has not been able to exercise enough pressure (perhaps it is not able to) on Israel. What is it to be done? What should be done?

Well, the European role comes in handy and comes in inevitably. It comes in inevitably because, ironically, the Israeli government itself, which is rejecting the European role, has made the role a must by procrastinating and obstructing the peace process. Where would we be now

had the peace process kept the momentum it had before the election of Netanyahu? In the stage of peace building, Europe would not have asked to be involved, in other words, in the process of peace implementation had the Israeli government implemented the agreements smoothly and in good faith. Since it has been stubborn and arrogant and since Denis Ross has not been much successful, the European gesture is indeed a must.

The European gesture is significant in many ways. Notice that, as President Chirac has made it clear and as the French Ambassador in Amman has asserted to Jordan TV Tuesday night, the French and the Europeans do not want a place at the negotiating table itself. This would complicate matters (as I have just hinted) rather than make them easier. What they seek, instead, is to bring in fresh ideas and act as ambassadors of goodwill. The fact that President Chirac has carried a message from President Assad is significant in this respect. Such a move should be appreciated, especially since the Israeli government continues to be intransigent and especially when Americans run out of energy or ideas.

More important than this, I believe, is the pressure (moral and psychological) that the European move will place on the Israelis. President Chirac's visit could not have come at a better time. The morale of the Palestinians negotiators is somewhat low, due to Israeli intransigence, and the enthusiasm for peace with Israel even at the popular level is decreasing. Additionally, there has been a great deal of frustration and mounting criticism of Israel even from its peace partners (Egypt and Jordan) and from the international community. The European role is needed to give a push to Arab morale and to their faith and hope in peace. Let the Europeans come and see for themselves (as Yasser Arafat has said) who is procrastinating and refusing to implement the agreements.

But the European move is important because it comes to declare in the clearest terms possible what the Israeli government does not want to assert (or even hear) and what some have not been asserting firmly. The Europeans, epitomised by the French position, come to stress (as President Chirac and the French ambassador in Amman have): a) the urgency of implementation of agreements, b) the crucial principle of land for peace, c) the fallacy (or selfishness and exaggeration) of Israel's claims in Jerusalem and d) the necessity of the declaration of the Palestinian state. Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the U.S. have all said as much. But it is important for the Europeans to also come and declare these fundamental points loudly and clearly.

What is needed now, more than at any other time before, is solidarity among members of the peace camp, and one views the European move to be essentially a solidarity move.

Europe must get involved (in the sense of involvement we have just specified) for several reasons. In addition to what we have said, there are two reasons why the Europeans should be more assertive and aggressive than they have been for some time now. The first has to do not only with the moral obligation they bear as carriers of the banners of human rights, the brotherhood of man, and global cooperation and prosperity, but also with a historical obligation. The European countries (Britain and France in particular) have contributed (since the time they were colonial powers) directly and indirectly (the joint French-British secret deals in the early part of the century and the Balfour Declaration are still in recent memory) to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Through facilitating and actively supporting the creation of the Jewish state in Israel (and the developments and practices that emerged as a result) they have caused damage to the Palestinians and the Arab World. It is time now (and it is fitting, appropriate and obligatory) for them to make it up to the Arabs and the Palestinians. The Palestinians need a home (on their own national soil), and it is only right for the Europeans (the French and the English in particular) to do all they can to rectify the injustice of the past and stand firmly behind the Arabs and the Palestinians, with respect to the Palestinian state and with respect to Jerusalem. The British and the French have an opportunity now to correct a historical oversight and remove a somewhat black spot from their history records.

But the Europeans should get involved in peace building. Peace has been built — partially, of course. When the Israeli government wakes up and moves speedily, and it cannot but do so, and when the implementation of peace is complete and negotiations are behind us, we will be left with the question (which we have tackled in some of the MENA conferences and others) of how we can build peace for the benefit of all. There are great opportunities in the Middle East for all: economic, cultural, etc. The Europeans could be valuable, fundamental partners in peace building.

It is obvious that we need to speed up the peace process, put behind us soon peace making and embark on the more important process of peace building. Any efforts in this direction are welcome.

## The ghosts of sergeants past

By Gwynne Dyer

"WE ARE going to have to kill Idi Amin," British prime minister Harold Wilson said to his press secretary Joe Haines one day in 1975. "How do we set about doing this?"

Ask the Foreign Office, of course. But the British Foreign Office was "very much against it," and claimed they did not have field operatives capable of assassinating Amin. So he went on slaughtering Ugandans for another four years.

This reminder of a horrific episode in Africa's past, revealed in a documentary shown by the BBC on Sept. 22, came just two days after that other ex-sergeant from hell, former Central African Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, was flown to the Ivory Coast for treatment of a brain tumour. Between them, Bokassa and Amin killed at least as many people as died in the recent genocide in Rwanda — and they both kept human flesh in the fridge.

Bokassa and Amin had both already reached their level of incompetence by the time they were promoted

ed to the rank of sergeant, one in the French colonial forces and the other in the King's African Rifles in British East Africa. They were vicious, ignorant, and superstitious, but they were also very ambitious.

Trained officers were so scarce in the post-independence armies of the Central African Republic and Uganda that the former sergeants rose fast — and Bokassa and Amin each had the tacit backing of Paris or London when they overthrew local governments that were insufficiently respectful of Western interests.

By the time Harold Wilson contemplated having Amin killed in 1975, a thousand people a week were being tortured to death in Ugandan prisons. But Wilson's attack of conscience about Amin bore no fruit — within a year he was out of office anyway — and the megalomaniac dictator stayed in power another four years. He even took a turn as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

Amin was a huge embarrassment to Africa, but these were the days of anti-impe-

rialist solidarity when African countries never criticised each other, even for genocide. And the Western press just loved p-President for Life Field-Marshal Al Hadji Dr. Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, Lord of all the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Sea, Last King of Scotland, Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular (as he liked to style himself on formal occasions). His murderous buffoonery justified the media's rampant fascism.

Bokassa was Amin's exact counterpart, but in French. He changed the Central African Republic's name to the Central African Empire (same borders and just as poor) because then he could call himself emperor. He kept Paris sweet with lavish gifts to senior French politicians, and he modelled his coronation ceremony on that of Napoleon. And meanwhile, out back, his torturers were killing at least several hundred people a week.

Together, the two ex-sergeants came to epitomise Africa's weakness, its self-mutilation, and its ruthless manipulation by outside

forces in the 1970s. They had to go, but how? For they could not be overthrown from below.

In the end, French forces that were stationed in Bokassa's "empire" played a large part in removing him from power in 1979. In the same year, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania lent his own country's troops and money to an invasion by exiled Ugandans that finally drove Amin from power. But there is no justice: both men are still alive today.

Bokassa, somewhat more crazed than when he was in power, voluntarily returned to the Central African Republic in 1986 and was tried and sentenced to death for murder and embezzlement. The death sentence was commuted and he was released from prison in 1993, a walking proof of how generously Africans forgive. By this year, he was even talking about running for president in the 1998 elections — but then, mercifully, the brain tumour intervened.

Amin had a less eventful retirement. As a Muslim, he was granted asylum in Saudi Arabia, and now lives in a large marble villa in the

port city of Jeddah with one wife and about nine of his 40-odd children. "He killed a lot of people," said the manager at the nearby "Safeway" supermarket where Amin often shops. "He ate human flesh." But it's people's nature to forget," aged monsters (Amin is about 68, Bokassa is 75); they have to tell us about Africa's present and future, anyway?

They are useful because they provide us with a standard of comparison. There are human calamities, even outright genocides in Africa today as bad as anything that befell Uganda and the Central African Republic in the 70s: Rwanda last year, or Burundi this year. There are even places in today's Africa where sergeants still seize power and torture whole countries: Liberia, for example. But the differences are greater than the similarities.

Africa was slow to react to the Rwandan genocide last year, but no slower than Europe was in reacting to the Bosnian genocide. In response to this year's impending genocide in Burundi, however, African leaders have taken serious

action. Julius Nyerere, now retired from Tanzania's presidency, has coordinated a blockade of Burundi by neighbouring countries until civilian rule and democracy are restored there. And he has not ruled out the use of force.

There has been an even more vigorous regional response to the hideous slaughter in Liberia, where a 12,000-man, five-nation force drawn from all over West Africa has been struggling for years to restore peace. ECOMOG, as the peacekeeping force is called, has its problems — Liberians say it stands for "Every Car and Other Movable Object Gone" — but it is a lot better than the "see no evil, hear no evil" approach that African took to Bokassa and Amin.

Are things still dreadful in Africa? Of course; every African knows that. Is it still poorer, more disease-ridden, more violent than any other major region of the world? Obviously. But slowly, painfully, Africa is beginning to pull itself together.

## Abacha opens door to foreign ministers — just

By Derek Ingram

LONDON — Almost a year after the executions of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists, Commonwealth foreign ministers are preparing to go to Nigeria for talks on the sour relations.

The visitors have no written assurances that they will be able to see any of the political prisoners they want to contact, or that they will be able to meet the military ruler, General Sani Abacha.

The chances are, however, that both will happen.

Nigeria is playing a wily political game, knowing that Commonwealth countries are divided over how to tackle the regime. The Commonwealth has pledged to bring about the release of the prisoners, who include the perceived winner of the 1993 election, Chief Moshood Abiola, and former head of state General Olusegun Obasanjo, and to move the country to civilian rule.

In the wake of the executions, Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth and given two years to

introduce reforms. At their

Auckland summit, Commonwealth leaders threatened that failing any change after two years, the suspension would be turned into expulsion.

The heads of government met again in Edinburgh in October 1997, and, until now, their team of foreign ministers — knows as the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) — has not even been allowed to visit the country. Threats to impose sanctions have now been shelved.

The action group was not set up specifically to deal with Nigeria. Its objective is to improve the quality of democratic government in all Commonwealth countries. But Nigeria, as a military regime responsible for major human rights abuses, became its first preoccupation.

Nigeria is a test case as to whether the Commonwealth can live up to its declarations. Failure to make progress could jeopardise the existence of CMAG and the whole programme agreed in Auckland, which aims to achieve just and

honest government in all 53 member countries.

But Commonwealth unity over Nigeria that was shown in Auckland has unravelled. Some countries want tough action; others are uncomfortable about intervening in another member's internal affairs.

Britain is looking to its huge commercial investment in Nigeria. Ghana, its neighbour, is enmeshed in many regional relationships with Nigeria. Canada wants a tough line and has imposed sanctions unilaterally. But others point to the fact that Ottawa has few economic links with Nigeria anyway.

Sanctions would be effective only if the United States imposed them. It buys 40 per cent of its oil from Nigeria, and oil accounts for 95 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange.

The New York Times has called for sanctions — "General Abacha has proved to be the kind of man who listens to nothing else" — but any such action must be out, at least until after the U.S. presidential elections.

The Commonwealth team, chaired by Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Stan Mudenge, is now expected to go to the Nigerian capital, Abuja, at the end of November.

The Nigerians are making an issue of every detail of the mission. For instance, the British intend to send Lady Chalker, number two to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind. The Nigerians say the action group is for foreign ministers, and that Rifkind must come.

They refuse to accept the action group as a "fact-finding mission" and want the ministers simply to talk to the government and stay only two days. They want the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who is a Nigerian, to accompany the ministers, although they know that traditional practice is never goes along on such missions.

The only real progress is that, after a long silence, a dialogue has been established between the

Commonwealth and Nigeria.

However, pressure from the Commonwealth has managed to stop the regime from further oppression. Other threatened executions have not taken place, and there are signs that Abacha has been shaken by the fact that the Commonwealth has turned Nigeria into something of a pariah.

Internally, he is constantly juggling with his governors and senior military staff in preparation for Oct. 1, 1998, the date he has set for a return to civilian rule. He has just created six new states, bringing the total to 37.

There is a fear that he is planning to follow some other African military rulers by changing into civilian clothes, holding a partially free election and emerging as a democratically elected president.

This is what has happened in the Gambia, where Yahya Jammeh, who took over in a coup in 1994, held an irregular presidential election on Sept. 26 and claimed to have won more than 50 per cent of the vote. His main

rival, Ousainou Darboe, took refuge in the Senegalese embassy in Banjul.

The Commonwealth refused to send a team to observe the polling in The Gambia, and must now decide what to do about the parliamentary elections which are due there in December.

When CMAG met in New York in late September, it said it was making recommendations to governments as to how to handle the situation. It looks as though Jammeh is taking lessons from Nigeria in trying to outsmart the Commonwealth.

The writer was editor of Gemini News Service, from which this article is reprinted, for 28 years and is now its consultant editor. He is a member of the Advisory Commission of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and was a member of the Commonwealth observer groups for the Pakistan and Malawi elections.

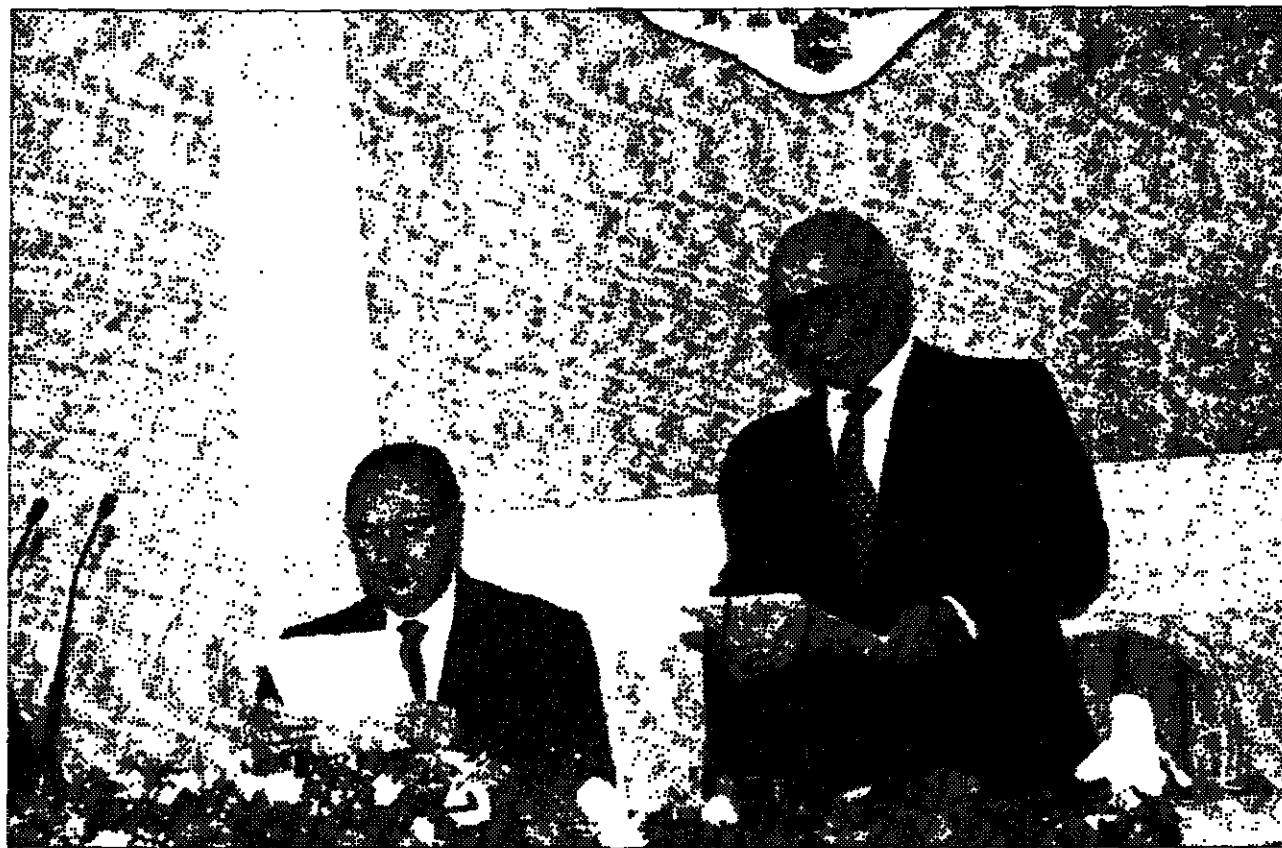
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## Society on the Move

### Functions add flare to a French state visit

What state visit would be complete without the splendence of a state dinner. For French President Jacques Chirac, during his overnight visit to Jordan, such a dinner was hosted at the Royal Court Wednesday evening by His Majesty King Hussein shortly after the president's arrival in Amman yesterday evening. The 100 or so names on the guest list included several members of the Royal Family, about 40 members of Mr. Chirac's delegation, senior government officials and Jordanians involved in this the first-time and highly significant visit of the French head of state. As Mr. Chirac is unaccompanied by his spouse, the invitations to the dinner were sent to individuals rather than couples. Reciprocating the honour, Mr. Chirac will today host a luncheon, albeit with smaller attendance, for His Majesty. The luncheon will be held at the residence of French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet. It was not known until late last night who the limited guest list would exclude, but there will be a larger audience at the residence later that afternoon when Mr. Chirac will meet with the French contingent residing in Jordan. The last time the residence witnessed such important events was when former French Ambassador Denis Bouchard hosted His Majesty and the visiting French head of state, the late Francois Mitterand in 1992. Before that, in 1984, it was Ambassador Patrick LeClerc who hosted the same two leaders in Amman. Mr. Bouchard ended his tour of duty in Jordan to become director of the Middle East and North Africa Department, and only last July was promoted to the post of director of the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. LeClerc left Amman to become ambassador in Cairo and now is France's chief envoy in Madrid. His successor in Cairo, Rochereau de la Fabriere, unfortunately will not have an opportunity to host such high level functions as Mr. Chirac's itinerary calls for just a short stopover in the Egyptian capital.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday night delivers an address at the state dinner held at Basman Palace in honour of visiting French President Jacques Chirac (Petra photo)

**MIGHTY TASK AHEAD:** Adel Qudah, former minister of supply, is slated for a new job, putting him in charge of monitoring and managing the privatisation process of the various institutions in the Kingdom. With the Cabinet's decision pending Royal approval, Mr. Qudah will be handling major industries that have, since their inception, been primarily government-owned and managed. Among them are Royal Jordanian, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation and the Aqueduct Corporation. He has already visited several of the organisations whose privatisation he will oversee and is looking for a team to help him carry out this considerable task. But having once headed the Audit Bureau and Customs Department, his experience should give him a sufficient lead.

**SQUELCHING THE RUMOURS:** Another Qudah made the news this week. This time it was Minister of Culture Ahmad Qudah who, in an Al Dustour interview published Tuesday, said that stories spreading about town depicting him as culturally awkward and claiming he did not know who Pablo Picasso was, were nothing but fabrications. Pundits first heard of the rumours nearly three months ago, but investigations into their validity met with the same response - the stories were made up. Needless to say, as with all rumours, the twists and turns of their contents are varied. In the Al Dustour interview, Mr. Qudah said he spoke to no one about any Picasso exhibition nor about the artist himself. He also denied reports that he had refused a request by the Israeli Embassy in Amman to organise an art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. He said that, in fact, it was the embassy which requested a postponement of the exhibition.

**FROM RUSSIA TO THE UKRAINE:** As Jordan's Ambassador to Moscow Dr. Khalid Dhaher was also appointed non-resident ambassador to the Ukraine, the

Ukraine has now selected Jordanian contractor Mohammad Atif Huweidi to be that state's representative in Jordan. Mr. Huweidi's interests are rather varied. He ran unsuccessfully for a seat in Parliament in 1993, but his new appointment may prove to be just as fulfilling. Meanwhile, the visit to Jordan of Yuri Parascinov, president of the Union of Russian Friendship Societies, appears to be the first time Jordanian-Russian friendship talks have been reported since the late Prime Minister Bahjat

Talhouni's active days as president of the Jordanian-Russian Friendship Society. But with courtesy calls to the speakers of parliament and the minister of tourism, it may be more than friendship on the agenda.

**SUFFIXES WOULD SUFFICE:** Writer Zuleikha Abu Risha launched her new book Monday at Darat Al Funun.

The President of the International Women's Solidarity Association of Turkey (IWSA), Unvan Baradan Wednesday in Amman presents Her Majesty Queen Noor with the association's plaque in recognition of "Queen Noor's contributions to the field of social services in Jordan." Previous recipients of the plaque include former British Prime Minister Lady Margaret Thatcher, internationally renowned British mystery writer Dame Agatha Christie, and Portuguese singer of Fado ballads Amalia Rodrigues. The IWSA, which was established five years ago, supports successful Turkish women in various fields ranging from art and science to agriculture, by funding their projects and promoting their work at home and abroad. One thousand women have benefited from the women's association, whose members include Turkish parliamentarian Imran Aykui. The association, which has established a network of links with international women's organisations including the Jordanian National Committee for Women, will hold a fund-raising fashion and ceramics show in cooperation with the Amman Rotary Club today at the



Marriott Hotel. Proceeds from the event will fund projects for impoverished children in Jordan and Turkey. One step ahead, Tulin Umar, wife of Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Suha Umar, hosted an afternoon show at her residence on Wednesday featuring the same works that will be on display at the Marriott show. They are the works of Ms. Baradan, who is a ceramics artist, and fashion designer Hanife Cetin, whose modern garments draw on traditional Turkish motifs.

Queen Noor will also patronise a crafts exhibition this month. Al Aydi, more formerly known as the Jordan Crafts Development Centre, will open the exhibition on Monday. Entitled "Timeless Weaving and New Creations in Home Furnishings and Accessories," the exhibit will run only until Oct. 31. So for those who like to get a head start on holiday shopping, this show might be an innovative option.

The publication, in Arabic, deals with the concept of introducing gender consciousness into spoken and written Arabic. But unlike Western proponents of gender inclusive nouns who, for example, alter spokesman to spokesperson, Ms. Abu Risha is seeking to attach feminine suffixes to such words. Gender inclusiveness is not possible in Arabic unless one wants to add a tome to the already voluminous Arabic vocabulary. The launch of her book, entitled, *The Absent Language: Towards a Non-Sexist Vocabulary*, was not your usual autographing ceremony, but an evening of speeches by some of Ms. Risha's associates and friends such as Director of the British Council David Burton and fashion designer Hana Sadik, plus entertainment by her daughter Ruba Sakr who sang Western folk songs. Held in collaboration with the British Council, the launch was attended by former Royal Court Chief Adnan Abu Odeh, Institute of Diplomacy Director Mazen Armouti, several women's rights activists and members of the press.

**ELECTION PRIMER:** The American Centre will host an information gathering next Wednesday to discuss the Jordanian press and the U.S. presidential elections. Participating are Al Aswag Editor in Chief Mustafa Abu Libdeh, Al Rai reporter Ramadan Rawashdeh and Al Dustour columnist Saleh Galab. The guest speakers, incidentally, were all recent participants in an American-government sponsored programme which took them to the U.S. to observe the developments and activities in the sphere of this year's American presidential elections and what sort of preparations are required in such an event. The Wednesday forum could be a clandestine quiz.

**FAREWELLS AGAIN:** Former Jordan Times reporter and later free-lance writer Cathy King this week made a move from Amman to Beirut to write for the recently resuscitated English newspaper, *The Daily Star*. The paper is owned by Jamil Mrwayer, son of Kamel Mrwayer, who started Al Hayat in the 1940s. For the time being it will be Lebanon's only English daily. At present there is one weekly magazine, called *Monday Morning*, published in English by Milhem Karam, the dean of Lebanese journalists. But when it rained it poured for Cathy. Just after being hired by the *Daily Star*, she received word of her acceptance to a BBC Television training programme. On her way to Beirut last Sunday she was hoping to convince her new editor that the T.V. experience would equip her that much more for the paper.

**MUTAH & THE GERMANS:** Mutah University has been attracting attention from foreign institutions in town. German interests, for example, recently brought three representatives of various sectors in the federal republic to the Karak-based university. First Secretary for Press and Cultural Affairs at the German Embassy Ingrid Liedgens, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Manfred Haack, and archaeologist Hans Dieter Bienen of the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in Amman met with Mutah President Abdel Rahman Attiyat and several other officials. Mr. Haack's foundation will cooperate with the university to study socio-economic problems of the people living in southern Jordan in order to find ways and means to assist in improving their living standards. The Protestant Institute of Archaeology, inaugurated in Amman in 1982, will lend assistance to the Department of Archaeology by supporting the university's library with scientific publications and cooperating in future projects. This agreement was reached during Dr. Bienen's talks with Hamzeh Mahasneh, a Mutah archaeologist in charge of an excavation in Sayeh in Wadi Mujib.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Deaths mount as disease strikes drought zone

Farming families in northern Cameroon are suffering one of the worst years in living memory. First the rains failed, then came hungry birds and elephants to finish off what remained of their crops. Now cholera has added to their misery

By Peter N. Efanide

YAOUNDE — Bantling drought and food shortages, people in Cameroon's northern areas are now facing another deadly threat.

A cholera outbreak has spread across the border from Chad, killing more than 140 people in Logone, Shari, Mayo Sawa and Diamare divisions.

"The Far North [province] is fast becoming another Somalia," says Hamidon Njarah, a 63-year-old cereal farmer, referring to the recent famine in East Africa. "If this situation persists, I think I'll migrate to another province where there's abundant food."

"This is the only solution. I'm not the only one contemplating such a radical decision. My neighbour Yayaha is also one of them."

Problems began a few months ago with late rains. Then drought combined with destructive migratory birds and rampaging elephants to form an unholy alliance, depriving the people of food.

Less than half the normal amount of rain has fallen this year. Dr. Ngwa Ngu Tita Vincent, former assistant

director of agriculture and now the president of the Cameroon League for the Fight Against Hunger, Misery and Poverty, says cereal production has been severely reduced.

"Rain did not fall as expected in June," says Dr. Vincent. "Rain started falling only at the end of July and early August. And when it fell, it came in torrential downpours. Cereal planted in June was swept away."

"The province needs 30,000 tonnes of cereal to survive. The people are now eating their reserves," but these reserves will not last another two months, Dr. Vincent adds.

Gluttonous migratory birds, locally called chereha chereha, have moved southwards from the Sahel countries.

"These birds from Niger and Sudan do not only eat, but destroy what they cannot eat, explains farmer Njarah. He attributes the drought and occasional torrential downpour to "punishment from Allah. We need to sacrifice to appease the Almighty."

Worst hit are the Diamare and Mayo Danai areas, where huge flocks of chereha chereha devastated cereal ready for harvest.

Elephants, too, are wreaking havoc, eating what cereals have survived the

birds and weather.

"About 1,000 elephants have strayed from the Waza Park and are eating and destroying crops, says Mounchilpon Seidou, governor of the Far North province.

"The park is too small so they have strayed to surrounding farmlands. There's no way to contain them. If nothing is done, we'll have to plead for international aid."

Cereal shortages have already forced price increases. The price of a bag of rice in Maroua, the provincial capital, has soared from 15,000 CFA francs to 25,000 CFA francs. A plate of rice in a restaurant now costs 500 rather than the usual 100 CFA francs.

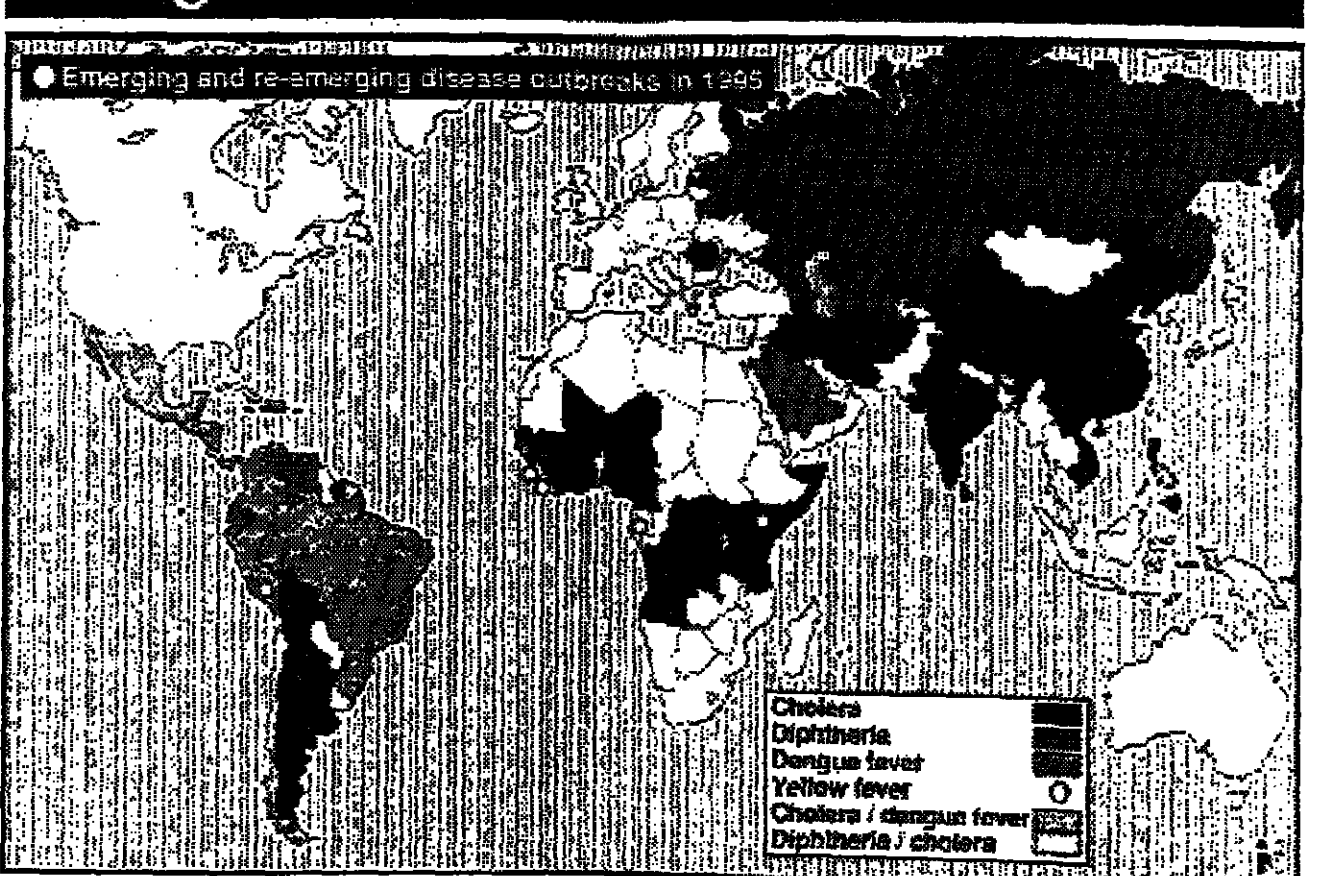
Even with little food in stock, some farmers prefer to sell their cereal to rich traders from neighbouring Chad and Nigeria.

In 1994, when famine hit the province and 105 hippopotamuses destroyed hundreds of acres of cereal, President Paul Biya donated a billion CFA francs to the victims. This year, much-needed aid has yet to arrive.

"The government should create a rehabilitation committee as exists in Ethiopia," says an official in the Ministry of Agriculture. "This committee could then assist these people, study their needs and map out strategies of transporting food from abundant regions to the famished area."

Regarding the cholera outbreak, Public Health Minister Professor Joseph Owona declared during a visit to the region that the "epidemic is under control." But local authorities

### Ailing world



in Maroua are taking no chances and have banned the sale of a local drink called "anti-crises" which is produced under deplorably unhygienic conditions and is blamed for many deaths. Enforcing the ban is extremely difficult.

Many people say they have been drinking anti-crises for years without stomach ache and that the drink is four times cheaper than beer from the brewery. "We don't have any money," says

one tipsy farmer. "What do the authorities expect us to quench our thirst with?" — Gemini News.

Exchange rate: \$1=513 CFA francs

سكنا حيا لاجل

## Inevitable changes

By Jean-Claude Elias

TO ALL those who have become familiar, comfortable with the 3.5" floppy disk holding a modest 1.44MB of data — sorry.

The industry has done it again. Or rather it is about to, next February or March 1997. Some companies have been working on the project for a couple of years but the commercial launch has been scheduled for the beginning of next year. The new floppy disk will hold a whopping 120MB of data, instead of the 1.44 we are used to — a very substantial leap. It will be of the same physical size as the 3.5" we know (meagre consolation), and will be able to read from but not write to the previous model.

Those who came recently to the world of personal computing may know only the 1.44MB format, but old timers like yours truly still remember when only a few years ago, we had to say goodbye to the 5.25", 1.2MB floppy disk.

As impressive and needed as the new capacity may be, many will greet the news with mixed feelings. Will it ever end? Wouldn't it be possible one day to keep the same format of data storage for say 15 or 20 continuous years? "Dream on" says the IT (information technology) industry.

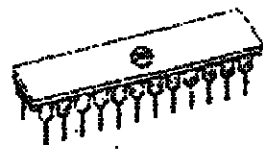
The need for more processing power and thus larger storage devices is a "natural" trend. Nothing indicates that it is going to abate. It is therefore also normal to see new storage equipment appear every now and then.

Just like the 1.2MB diskette remained available alongside the then new 1.44MB model for a while when the latter was released, the now (almost) old 1.44MB diskette will probably remain available with the new 120MB. This will give users time to adapt and transfer their data at a convenient pace from one format to the other.

The 120MB floppy will prove extremely useful to store software that currently takes several 1.44MB diskettes to store. It will also make the backup of vital data easier and less expensive. Indeed most users do their backup on 100MB or 200MB tape streamers that are far less reliable than disks.

The good news is that the price of the new media should-

## chip talk



n't exceed \$150 at the beginning and will probably fall below \$70 when high volume of sales are reached. It will also fit in the same space as the 1.44MB floppy in the PC cabinet.

Approximately at the same time, that is in the first quarter of 1997 another storage media will receive a massive shot of steroids: The CD-ROM that now has a typical capacity of 700MB will be able to hold 4.7GB (4,700MB) almost seven times its current capacity. Naturally other CD-ROM drives will be required to operate it.

Although it is not as commonly used for the time being as the floppy disk, the CD (laser disc) is slowly but surely becoming the universal disk format for computer data, music, still photography and video. The new size should have a major impact on our daily life before the end of the century. Movies that now require 2 CDs will be stored on one only. The multimedia encyclopaedias will have many more video clips that should also have higher image definition.

Finally the price of the recordable CD will fall below \$400 by early Spring next year making it affordable to the masses. The drive for this media used to cost \$3,000 or \$2,000 two years ago, it is now proposed in Amman at about \$1,000 by some vendors.

The combined introduction next year of the 120MB floppy, the 4.7GB CD-ROM and the drastic drop in price of the recordable CD will have an impact comparable to that of the introduction of the Pentium processor or Windows 95. PC users will never rest.

## More to universities than teaching

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

I HAD recently received a magazine from my old university. It is in fact something that I receive quite regularly but this time I thought I should share with you some of what was in it just to illustrate the point that there is far more to universities, as there should be, than simply sending graduates into an employment free world.

The magazine gives a view of research at University College London (UCL) and illustrates the wide range of scholarship and research which characterise UCL.

This is the other function of the university, to provide an encouraging environment for the creative individual researcher. At UCL, many projects are awarded funding from private sources.

The first of such projects aims to develop virtual reality technology to visualise the design and construction of new developments — such as shopping centres and transport facilities — before they are built.

The newly created Virtual Reality Centre for the Built Environment at the Department of Architecture will research and disseminate ways of producing built environments using virtual reality techniques.

A major problem facing the professions and industries involved in the built environment is that so many people have to collaborate on different aspects of a project. Few see how their work contribute to the whole, but it is argued that virtual reality techniques should make this possible.

The project will enable those who locate, design, construct, deliver and manage facilities to explore ways in which the highest quality environments can be produced.

Another project is about the latest in diagnosis techniques. An article in the magazine argues that the diagnosis of brain damage will soon be improved by a bedside near-infrared (NIR) light imager. This imager developed at the Department of Medical Physics and Bioengineering, and which will be completely mobile, enables patients to be monitored at their bedside.

The article claims that one great advantage of NIR imaging over X-ray imaging is that it is harmless and thus can be used repeatedly or even continuously. NIR can also detect very small abnormalities and tumours as small as 5 mm in diameter.

Another project at the Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology is leading a new cross-European initiative to address the dangers of noise, both occupational and envi-

## On Record



ronmental. Meanwhile, UCL already carries out research into the biological factors which can indicate people who are particularly susceptible to auditory damage.

Under the banner of UCL Painting Analysis Ltd., another team carries out scientific investigations on the materials, techniques and condition of paintings and painted objects.

It provides a commercial service in two areas: First, easel paintings and painted objects and, second, decoration in historic buildings.

The first area often involves quick turnaround work for auction houses — dating paintings, checking forgeries, authenticating signatures and assessing conditions.

The second area of work involves advising on the reinstatement of historic decorations. This involves identifying original paint schemes so that they can be restored accurately.

Another project has to do with handling the expected growth in telecoms traffic. This project involves using light of different colours to identify and route telecoms traffic: Telephone signals go from exchange to exchange and are electronically processed; some calls are processed as many as five or six times.

Under the new system, each major destination, say a city, will have its own colour selected from within the infrared spectrum. Instead of each exchange processing all the traffic that passes through, it will process only those messages of the colour that relates to its area. All non-local traffic will travel on to its destinations without delay.

These are only some of the projects going on in just one British university. One thing, and one thing only, remains to be asked: Will any of our own universities ever be able to compete with such levels of research and excellence?

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- \*\* Love is an inevitable.  
Howa sahlh al-hawa ghallab.
- \*\* Send him my best regards.  
Balligh'hu salamee.
- \*\* He made a mountain out of a mole.  
Ja'ala minal habbah qubbah.
- \*\* I don't care!  
La obali!
- \*\* I am at your service.  
Ana fee khid'matik.
- \*\* May God make him happy!  
Bayyada Allah waj'bahu.
- \*\* He made a colossal fortune.  
Jama'a tharwatan taa'ila.

- 3. What Asian port is nearest to the equator?
- 4. What is a cartoon?
- 5. What element is found in all acids?
- 6. How long is a lawn tennis court?

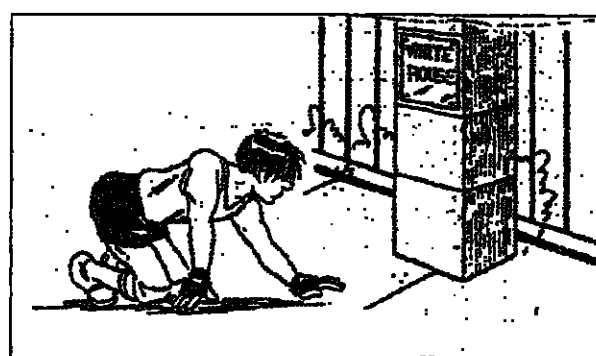
### JOKES

\* FIRST BOY: "You are fool!"  
SECOND BOY: "My father is another."

\* A YOUNG LADY entered a big business office and asked the peon: "I want to see the manager."  
PEON: "Please don't see him now. He's not in a speaking mood."  
YOUNG LADY: "There is no need for him to speak because I have to speak."

\* JIM: "Why don't you travel by plane?"  
TOM: "I'm afraid of an accident."  
JIM: "You shouldn't be afraid of an accident. You know you cannot die unless your death-time comes."  
TOM: "I know that. But supposing when I am travelling, my death-time doesn't come but the pilot's death-time comes, then what?"

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT



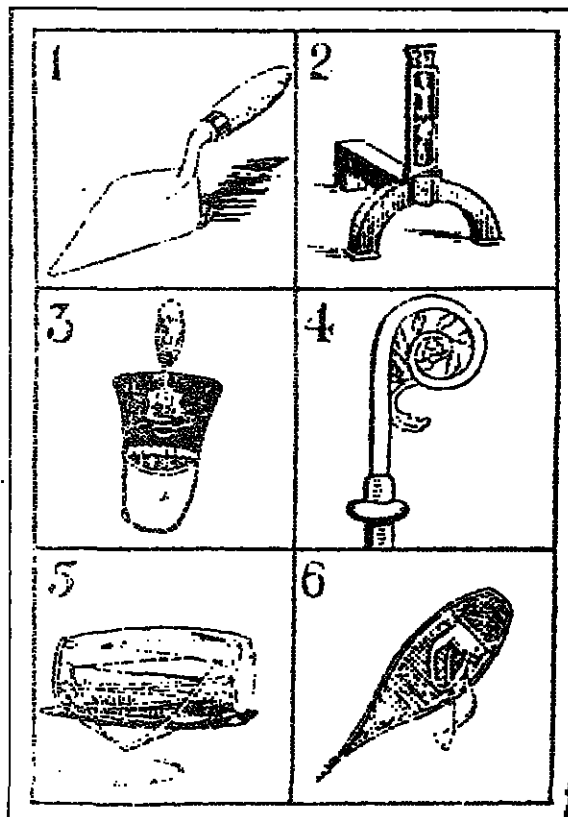
AN YOUNG American man covered the distance from his home in Texas to the White House in Washington D.C. on his hands and feet. The journey took him two and a half years.



ALEXANDER DUMA, the reputed French novelist, used to write his novels on blue paper, poems on blue paper whereas he got accustomed to writing his articles on pink paper.

### PUZZLES

#### WHAT ARE THEY?



ONCE AGAIN our artist has supplied us with drawings of six objects, about the names of which he was rather uncertain. In each case the correct name is one of the four given to each object in the list below. What are the correct names? Here is the list:

- |            |               |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Adze    | 2. Flatiron   | 3. Busby     |
| Newel      | Gridiron      | Shako        |
| Trowel     | Citron        | Helm         |
| Awl        | Andiron       | Casque       |
| 4. Brazier | 5. Tambourine | 6. Snow-shoe |
| Crozier    | Tombola       | Ski          |
| Seltzer    | Timpano       | Mocassin     |
| Psalter    | Tom-tom       | Netsuke      |

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- 1. What do we call "Traveller's Joy"?
- 2. What do we mean by a Joy Stick, a Roman Candle, a Sally Lunn?

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, October 24, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	4:30	The Famous Five
2:05	Iris + Ovid & The Gang	5:00	News Flash
2:30	Take Your Pick	5:02	Our World Their World — Documentary
3:00	Covington Cross	5:15	Search And Rescue
3:30	Feature Film — Something For Joey	6:00	French Programme
	Starring: Geraldine Page & Marc Singer	7:30	News Headlines
5:00	News Flash	7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
5:02	Cont. Feature Film	8:01	Auto Classics
5:30	French Programme	8:30	Album Show
	Intertainment Varieties	9:10	Blackie's Magic
7:00	Le Journal	10:00	News In English
7:15	Magazine — Atomes Crochus	10:30	Madson
7:30	News Headlines	11:15	Miami Vice
7:35	U.N. Facts	12:00	Yes Minister
8:01	American Chart Show		
8:30	Material World		
9:10	Kung Fu		
10:00	News In English		
10:25	Feature Film — Survive The Savage Sea		
	Starring: Robert Urich & Ali McGraw		
12:00	Taratata		

### Monday, October 28, 1996

### Friday, October 25, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Iris — Twinkle	2:05	Muppet Show
2:15	Muppet Show	2:30	The Bold And The Beautiful
2:30	Play About + Flintstones	3:00	French Programme
3:00	See How They Grow	4:00	Nature's Inventions
3:15	French Programme	4:30	Hey Dad
4:10	Crystal Maze	5:00	News Flash
5:00	News Flash	5:02	Destiny Ridge
5:02	Name Your Adventure	6:00	French Programme
5:30	French Programme	7:30	News Headlines
	Envoye Special	7:35	Rosanne
7:00	Le Journal	8:01	Disaster Chronicle — Documentary
7:15	Magazine — Allo La Terre	8:30	Cinema, Cinema
7:30	News Headlines	9:10	The Lazarus Man
7:35	Documentary	10:00	News In English
8:01	Secret Weapons	10:25	Final Justice
8:30	Hunter	11:15	Bodies Of Evidence
9:10	Virtual Reality	12:00	Dad's Army
10:00	News In English		
10:30	Feature Film — Weswart The Woman		
	Starring: Robert Taylor & Denise Darcel		
12:00	Family Matters.		

### Saturday, October 26, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Adventures Of Mickey And Donald	2:05	Budgie
2:30	The Bold And Beautiful	2:25	Adventures On The Rainbow Pond
2:45	Just The Job	2:45	I Love Lucy
3:00	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	Gillette (Sports)	4:00	At The Zoo
4:30	Chris Cross	4:30	My Secret Identity
5:00	News Flash	5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programme	5:02	Fun With Physics
5:15	Blue Healers	5:15	Road To Avonlea
6:00	French Programme	6:00	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines	7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Something Wilder	7:35	Murphy Brown
8:01	Documentary — New Literacy	8:01	Magazine Zero One
8:30	Prism	8:30	Encounter
9:10	Lois And Clark	9:10	Star Trek
10:00	News In English	10:00	News In English
10:25	Mini Series — Best Seller	10:30	China Beach
11:15	Feature Film — Creep Show	11:15	Mission Impossible
	Starring: Lois Chiles & George Kennedy	12:00	Are You Being Served

### Wednesday, October 30, 1996

### Sunday, October 27, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Fievel's American Tails	2:05	Muppet Show
2:30	You Bet Your Life	2:30	The Bold And The Beautiful
3:00	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	Science Magazine — Documentary	4:00	Documentary — Earth Revealed
		4:30	Blizzard Island
		5:00	News Flash
		5:02	The Adventures + Kelly
		6:00	French Programme
		7:30	News Headlines
		7:35	The Four Seasons
		8:01	Super Stars Of Action
		8:30	Challenges
		9:10	N.B.A. Basketball
		10:00	News In English
		10:30	Bugs
		11:10	Hart To Hart
		12:00	Who Is The Boss?









# The paradise that was almost lost



January 1993 ... overpumping of water turns the Azraq Oasis into a deserted waste dump

THREE YEARS ago, visitors who took the one-and-a-half hour trip from Amman to the Azraq Oasis would have been in for an unpleasant surprise. For standing there to greet sightseers at this popular tourist site was not a sparkling oasis, but a deserted waste dump. What was once a unique freshwater ecosystem in the heart of the eastern desert had been transformed into a dried-up crater filled with rocks, used tires and garbage. Buffaloes and wild horses which used to roam the wetlands were nowhere to be seen.

Today, another trip to the oasis would leave the same visitors rubbing their eyes in disbelief. The barren crater has been replaced by a glittering lake with ducks and cranes swimming lazily under the sun. Lush vegetation circles the shores of the lake, reflecting their proud, green leaves in the clear waters, while migratory birds swoop in from the sky to fill their thirsty beaks.

The oasis, which was on the brink of death nearly three years ago, was brought back to life by the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Azraq Oasis Conservation Project. What happened to Azraq, according to Ghazi Fariz, head of the project's management unit, was an environmental crime. As one of few oases wetlands left in the deserts of the world, Azraq represented a unique freshwater habitat for the fauna and flora in arid regions, attracting many nature lovers. It had often been described as a paradise in the middle of a desert. The oasis was of particular importance to hundreds of thousands of migratory birds during their seasonal flights. At one point, it was also home to the Asian jackal, red fox, striped hyena, black water snake and a variety of amphibians. But the very substance that these creatures survived on was what eventually destroyed the oasis — water.

The Azraq Oasis had always been a water surplus area situated in the heart of a 12,710 km<sup>2</sup> drainage basin, which is larger than the area of Lebanon. Water used to pour in from nearby wadis, and rainfall — as sparse as it was — used to contribute its share of water to the oasis. It was only a matter of time before ever-expanding urban centres, in their quest for a solution to their water shortage, would turn to Azraq to quench the thirst of a growing population.

Pumping from the Azraq springs began as far back as the 1960s to supply the city of Irbid with water at a rate of 2-3 million cubic meters (mcm) per year. But it wasn't until the late 1970s that the rate of extraction began to rise rapidly. During the early 1980s, when Jordan was enjoying the spillover effect of the oil boom in the Gulf states, its economy expanded and its population increased. With all this prosperity came the increased demand for

water. Pumping from Azraq escalated, peaking at 25 mcm per annum in 1993. To compound this problem, unparalleled growth in agriculture, which depends on groundwater for irrigation, consumed another 25 mcm. At an extraction rate of 50 mcm a year, water from the Azraq Oasis was being pumped at twice its natural rechargeable capacity.

The consequences were disastrous. The underground water table dropped drastically, while the salinity of soil and water surged. The springs, lakes and marshes dried up and all signs of foliage and wildlife disappeared. The collapse in the oasis' ecosystem did not spare the local community in Azraq. Their crops suffered. They could no longer fish or graze their cattle and those who worked in tourism-related businesses were out of jobs. In search of a better livelihood, many workers from Azraq left their rural community and migrated to urban centres of



January 1995 ... the wetlands are brought back to life by UNDP's Azraq Oasis Conservation Project

the country. To Dr. Fariz, who had been working on the Azraq Oasis Conservation Project since 1994, there is a sad irony to the story of the wetlands. Azraq was given special recognition at the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in 1977 and was declared a Ramsar Site which granted it international protection. In the same year, the southern area of the wetlands was given reserve status. But this failed to prevent the environmental mismanagement which took place in subsequent years, and it wasn't until decades later that a move was made to remedy the situation.

In 1993, UNDP decided to use financing available through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a funding mechanism born out of the 1992 World Summit on Environment in Rio de Janeiro, to address the ecological crisis in Azraq. Together with various government agencies and the Royal Society for the Con-

servation of Nature (RSCN) which is responsible for managing nature reserves in the kingdom, the Azraq Oasis Conservation Project was mobilised. The project became the first in Jordan to link the conservation of biodiversity to the needs of the local community, and one of the first in the world which attempted to restore an arid-zone wetland ecosystem.

According to Dr. Fariz, the local community had been wary of environmental projects that were so obsessed with biodiversity that they forgot about the human dimension. The project had to stand up to powerful land owners, farmers and the municipalities who had come to rely, to a large extent, on the Azraq Oasis for their water supply.

The most effective solution to the water dilemma at Azraq would have been to cease all pumping from the basin. But that would have resulted in grave socio-economic consequences. After some brainstorming and consultations with the gov-

ernment, it was agreed to do something that had never been done in the country before — reverse pumping.

Extensive studies were conducted and experimental pumping began in June of 1994 through existing pipe networks. Water was pumped back to the epicentre of the basin at a rate of 2 mcm per annum. This not only arrested the salinisation of existing freshwater, but it also began to replenish the water supply of the oasis to a healthy level.

Their rehabilitation plans did not stop there. A major clean up operation was launched for the springs in the lakes and the wadis that led to the reserve. The wadis were deepened so that more rainfall would be channelled into the reserve. Guidelines were established for rationing water from the basin for agricultural production and the Society of Azraq Oasis Friends was founded, creating a vocal grassroots movement. Today, the Azraq Oasis Conservation Project is cited as a

global model for wetland conservation and management.

"We saved what could be saved and initiated positive trends," said Dr. Fariz on the gradual comeback the wetlands are making. The project's success was a testament to the basics of proper management — in knowing how much water exists and where — and to the timeliness of UNDP's assistance.

In a short period of time, the Azraq Oasis went from being an ecological disaster back to a healthy freshwater ecosystem. But it is clearly not out of the woods. Over-pumping continues and the demands of a growing population pose a threat to the water supply. But the project continues to repair damages of the past while practising proper resource management in the hope that water agreements with neighbouring countries will ultimately relieve the pressure on the wetlands of Azraq.

## Partners in business:

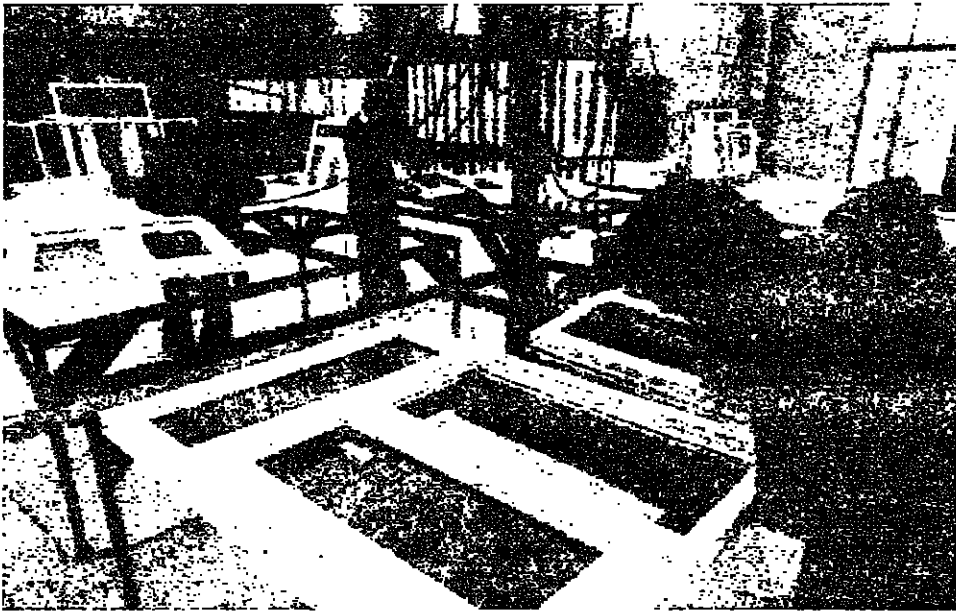
# UNDP lends a hand to small enterprises by fuelling 'engine for job creation'

WHEN OFFICERS from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) paid a visit to a small woodwork business to market their services for small and medium-sized enterprises, the shop owner was suspicious. So much so, that as soon as his visitors left, he hurried to his friend who owned the woodwork business next door and told him that the income tax department had come to see him.

His friend knew better. His business was one of 450 small and medium-sized enterprises in Amman and Irbid that had benefited from the VTC's pilot project. Extension officers from the VTC had taught him how to manage his business finances more efficiently through cost accounting. Other enterprises learned how to manage and improve their sales, marketing, maintenance, and quality control through training and consultations with the VTC.

There is a reason why the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the VTC have put small enterprises at the top of their agenda for the industrial extension project. Small enterprises in Jordan are emerging as a major player in the private sector economy. High hopes are pinned on the growth of the private sector to pave the way for a stronger and sustainable economy. The importance of small enterprises is reflected in their numbers — 89 per cent of the 18,592 industrial firms and 96 per cent of the 35,935 trading firms in Jordan employ no more than five workers.

Small and medium-sized enterprises have been



In 1995, over 1,000 small enterprises were provided with special consultations tailored to meet their specific business needs

dubbed the "engine for job creation" because no other single sector in the economy creates more jobs in absolute numbers. Yet traditionally, such businesses have always lacked support services and are very vulnerable to economic hardships, especially in an increasingly competitive market. The absence of credit facilities, marketing networks, training and proper management are just some of the obstacles which place them at a relative disadvantage to larger firms.

All over the world, the failure rate of new small-scale enterprises is very high. On average, less than half survive the first five years of operation. As a result, many industrialised countries in Europe have established public institutions which offer technical and managerial expertise free-of-charge or at low cost to small enterprises. In turn, their industrial extension support have paid off hand-

somely by enabling businesses to stay afloat and preventing significant economic loss in the form of unpaid bank loans, redundant enterprises, etc.

In 1992, with the technical assistance of UNDP, the global expertise of ILO in small enterprise development and in-kind contribution from the government, the VTC began offering industrial extension services. The idea was to ultimately enhance the production of the small enterprise sector by strengthening the VTC's national capacity to provide them business training and advisory services.

Targeting firms that employed up to 60 people, extension officers made over 2,000 site visits in Amman and Irbid, the major industrial centres. Seminars and workshops tackling management and technical issues were organised. They were later followed up with visits to the

work premises of the participants to ensure they were correctly applying the concepts and techniques taught to them.

A remarkable aspect of the project was the undivided attention many small firms received from the extension officers. In 1995 alone, over 1,000 small and medium-sized enterprises were provided with special consultations tailored to meet their specific needs in costing, stock control, layout, accounting and planning. As a result, small enterprises in Jordan were able — for the first time — to turn to a public sector establishment for assistance.

At first, the project was not met with much enthusiasm from business owners. As a result, it forged an uneasy alliance between the public and private sectors who were used to working apart, not together. Secondly, it was difficult for many business owners to admit

they needed help, and from a public institution no less.

Nearly five years into the project, the psychological barrier between small enterprises and the VTC has begun to crumble. A recent survey of VTC clients revealed an overwhelming approval of their support services, with 76% indicating that there is a pressing need for an industrial extension programme dedicated to small enterprises. The apprehension which was initially harboured by business owners was replaced by a sense of trust as a result of the tangible benefits they were beginning to see in their day-to-day operations.

One plastic pipe manufacturer in Irbid saved JD 1,200 a year in scrapped plastic when extension officers showed his workers how to manually cut the pipes to the exact desired length. In another case, extension officers helped rearrange the work space of a metal fabrication plant in Amman. This saved employees time spent searching for materials and tools. With an office space of his own, also made possible by better management of space, the business owner was able to buy a computer and organise his working files more efficiently.

The VTC, UNDP and ILO had truly become partners in business of small enterprises. Their project effectively heightened the awareness and demand for industrial extension support services. Today, many small businesses do not wait until extension officers come knocking on their door. They go out and seek such services on their own.



## Worldwide and in Jordan

### Largest U.N. programme

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the largest grant-based assistance programme within the United Nations with an annual budget of close to \$1.0 billion.

### Worldwide field network

UNDP has field offices in 136 countries around the world — more than any other international agency. Its headquarters is located next to the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

### Development for people

UNDP is committed to sustainable human development, i.e. policies that place long-term needs of people at the centre of the development process.

### UNDP in Jordan

UNDP (and its predecessor agency within the U.N.) has provided grants technical assistance to Jordan since 1952. Thus, it has more than 40 years of experience in Jordan.

### Volume of assistance

Since 1992, a total of 57 projects at a total value of US\$ 21.0 million have been implemented in Jordan under the auspices of UNDP and its affiliated agencies within the United Nations.

### Areas of involvement

As a multi-sectoral development agency, UNDP provides assistance to Jordan in a broad spectrum of fields. Some of its ongoing projects aim to:

- Improve quality of vocational training.
- Reform income tax administration.
- Strengthen Jordan's export promotion.
- Preserve Jordan's biodiversity.
- Generate electricity from industrial wastes.
- Prepare Jordan's first national Human Development Report with the Ministry of Planning.

### Future priorities

For the coming years, the Government of Jordan has requested UNDP to focus its assistance on the following priorities:

- Governance and public administration
- Social development (poverty & gender)
- Jordan's international competitiveness
- Environment and natural resources

### The people behind UNDP

Twenty-eight staff members make up UNDP Jordan, including professionals with multi-disciplinary expertise in the fields of environment, political science, gender and development, economics, management and communications.

## What is sustainable human development?

*'Sustainable human development is development that is pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women.'*

**James Gustave Speth, UNDP Administrator**

BETWEEN THE 1950s and 1970s, the term "development" was synonymous with economic growth in terms of a country's gross national product. Economic growth was the single-minded preoccupation of development experts and policy-makers in developed and developing countries alike, at the expense of other dimensions of development.

By the 1980s, national and international development organisations began to pay particular attention to issues concerned with gender, non-governmental organisations

and the environment, to name a few. This trend reflected the emergence of an international consensus which argued that the key dimensions of development were being neglected — particularly as they related to people.

In the early 1990s, two new concepts began to be raised with increasing frequency: human development and sustainable development. As both terms essentially represented two sides of the same equation, they were soon combined into what is known today as sustainable human development.

The concept of sustainable human development was first interpreted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its global Human Development Report (HDR), published

annually since 1990. Its basic principle revolves around people-centred development. According to the HDR, a society's progress should be measured according to how it expands people's choices, is conducive to a long and healthy life, leads to empowerment and increases access to resources needed for a decent standard of living.

Since the concept of sustainable human development is applicable to people everywhere — regardless of nationality or place of residence — it has become a fundamental cornerstone of UNDP's policy and is also now high on the global policy agenda.



## Water for life

# ESCWA study prompts dialogue, cooperation between partners in water crisis

THROUGHOUT THE world, the development of new water resources has become the focus of studies by economists, politicians, and strategists. Worldwide population growth has led to an increased demand for water — not only for drinking and irrigation purposes but also to meet the needs of the industrial sector.

In the countries of the Western Asia region, matters are even more complex. Most of the countries of the region lie in arid and semi-arid land that rely on groundwater for most of their water needs. Proper planning and integrated management for the development and use of water resources has become a necessity, as has the application of modern technologies to explore and develop new water resources.

To further add to the complexity of the situation in Western Asia, water issues have become highly politicised. Many water basins are shared by more than one country in the region. Such sharing encompasses groundwater aquifers as well as rivers and lakes. In many cases, dialogue is nearly non-existent between countries sharing

aquifers, necessitating the intervention of a neutral entity qualified to bring about technical dialogue between these countries for the purpose of integrated management of shared water basins.

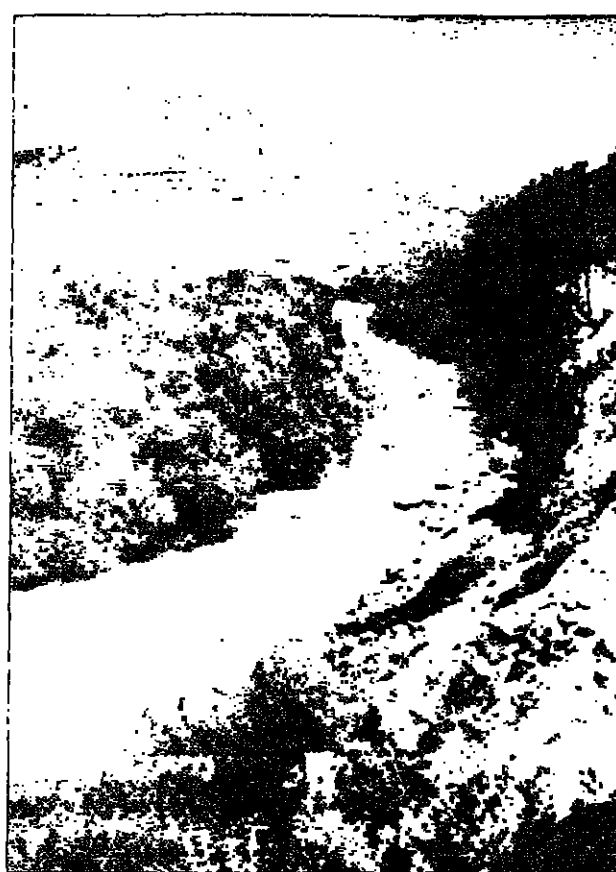
Herein lies the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). An impartial United Nations body with the requisite scientific and technical expertise, ESCWA is the ideal organisation to create the necessary dialogue among its member states for the rational development, utilisation and conservation of shared water resources. In fact, ESCWA has taken steps in this direction with the implementation of a project in cooperation with the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany, and with Syrian and Jordanian authorities. The sub-regional Basalt Aquifer System, extending over an area of about 25,000 square kilometres, and shared by Jordan and Syria, was selected for an investigative study.

The immediate objectives of the study are to establish a database on the hydrogeological conditions of the

Basalt aquifer region; to formulate proposals for further studies and technical measures for water resource development, management and conservation; and to use modern technologies such as remote sensing and isotope hydrology for groundwater exploration and management in the Basalt aquifer area. The long-term objective of the project is to achieve an optimised sustainable integrated management of the available water resources in the Basalt aquifer region.

Proposals currently centre on increasing the efficiency of water usage, through allocation of water resources to various sectors, including comprehensive planning for available resources and the improvement of the technical tools used for analysis purposes.

Among the most significant results of this project is that it engendered dialogue between the Jordanian and Syrian parties on water rights; on achieving a comprehensive water strategy for the shared aquifer and on the subsequent attainment of economic and social development for both countries.



In many cases, dialogue is non-existent between countries sharing water resources

ESCWA was the implementing agency for this project, through technical cooperation and coordination between its experts in the Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division and the specialised authorities in Jordan and Syria. ESCWA also received assistance from regional experts and consultants and from Germany's Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources.

Specifically, the study succeeded in preparing a unified geological map for the area comprising the Basalt Aquifer System shared by Jordan and Syria, through the use of remote sensing techniques coupled with groundtruth data. In addition, it prepared 15 thematic maps that describe the total thickness of the Basalt Aquifer System, depth of groundwater level, groundwater flow, and groundwater salinity. It also

tackled the hydrologic conditions of the area — drainage, rainfall, evaporation, and surface runoff patterns.

The study revealed increased salinity of the groundwater as a result of excessive pumping and the possibility of flow of this brackish water into the Azraq Basin which supplies part of Amman's drinking water. In addition, there is a possibility of increased diffusion of saline water in the eastern and northeastern parts of the shared aquifer.

Mutual cooperation and coordination for developing and managing the shared water basin comprising the Basalt aquifer is the responsibility of both Jordan and Syria. Through ESCWA's assistance, the two countries can begin to address this problem in a comprehensive manner that will ensure the achievement of mutual benefits.

## What is ESCWA?



THE ECONOMIC and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is one of five regional commissions established by the Economic and Social Council, the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for coordinating economic and social activities in the U.N. system. The main functions of ESCWA are:

— To promote economic and social development through regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration, and to serve as the main general economic and social development forum for the ESCWA region (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen).

— To formulate and promote development assistance activities and projects commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region and to act as an executing agency for relevant operational projects

— To organise conferences and inter-governmental and expert group meetings, sponsor training workshops, symposia and seminars, and carry out studies, research and surveys

— To establish and develop statistical databases and information pertinent to the work of ESCWA

### ESCWA's five thematic sub-programmes

In 1993-1994, ESCWA undertook a restructuring process to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in providing appropriate services to its member states. This entailed moving from a sectoral

programming approach encompassing 15 sub-programmes to 5 thematic sub-programmes:

### Management of Natural Resources and Environment

Under this sub-programme fall most of the energy, water and environment activities; some of the agricultural activities related to the management of land and environment; some of the human settlements activities related to energy and environment; some of the industry activities related to environment and energy, and statistics on energy and environment.

### Improvement of the Quality of Life

Under this sub-programme fall all social development, population, and human settlements activities as well as those relating to women; some of the agricultural activities related to rural development; some of the industry activities related to small-scale industries and participation of women in manufacturing industries, and employment opportunities through small-scale industries; and statistics on population, labour, women, human development and social development.

### Economic Development and Cooperation

Under this sub-programme fall all activities on development issues, trade, public administration, finance and transnational corporation activities.

most of the activities on industry, technology and transport; most of the activities on agriculture; and statistics on national accounts, finance and industry.

### Regional Development and Global Changes

Under this sub-programme fall all activities dealing with the impact of the Single European Market, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), privatisation, some of the transnational corporation activities and relevant global events as well as some activities relating to the quality of life (the social impact of structural adjustments).

### Special Programmes and Issues

Under this sub-programme fall all those activities dealing with Palestine, Yemen as a least developed country (LDC), countries affected by wars, the impact of the peace settlement on the region and other relevant emerging events.

ESCWA addresses these five thematic sub-programmes with the framework of the following substantive divisions:

— Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division

— Economic Development Issues and Policies Division

— Social Development Issues and Policies Division

— Sectoral Issues and Policies Division

— Statistics Division

— Technical Cooperation Division

## WHO: Pioneering work to improve the quality of life



The World Health Organisation (WHO) is committed to Health for All by the year 2000. It works towards the achievement of that goal by helping its member states to implement the primary health care approach which consists of several elements, including safe water supplies and sanitation, good nutrition, immunisation, control of communicable and endemic diseases, mother and child health including family planning. WHO believes that the attainment of Health for All can only be achieved through a holistic approach that aims to improve the living conditions of the poorest people. One of its highly successful initiatives is the Basic Development Needs approach which aims to empower the community to identify its essential needs and determine the ways and means of meeting them.

In Jordan, WHO supports about 35 health programmes which fall under four main headings:

1. Health manpower development, including support to universities and the establishment of education development centers and the development of teaching and learning material.

2. Development of health infrastructure and health systems including primary health care, health information and health management systems and health research.

3. Health technology transfer

and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, laboratory services, blood transfusion, environmental health, drug policies and pharmaceuticals.

4. Health promotion and health protection including: information education for health, nutrition, maternal and child health, prevention of disabilities and rehabilitation, women's health and development, family health, mental health and healthy life style.

Two WHO programmes in Jordan deserve special description:

A- "Improving the Quality of Life", which is implemented in collaboration with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. It started in the village of Sweimeh in the Ghor valley, where villagers decided on priorities to raise their living standards. Within four years nearly all the villagers were living in proper houses equipped with proper sanitation facilities, while previously half of the population lived in tents. In 1989 the village had no electricity, but under this initiative all its houses are supplied with electricity. The enthusiasm shown by the villagers encouraged the sponsoring organisations to extend the initiative to 15 other villages.

Beneficiary families were provided with a breeding cow whose first calf would be given to another family after birth. Other income generating projects included providing women with traditional and modern looms to make rugs and carpets. Nurseries for young children were also established

and school attendance was supported and monitored.

While these undertakings were concerned with survival and living conditions, they had a direct bearing on the health of villagers. Services by the local health centre were improved and the villagers were encouraged to make use of them. Immunisation coverage among infants against childhood diseases soon reached a high rate. Women in child bearing age were also immunised against neonatal tetanus to provide immunity for both the mother and the unborn child. A mothers' club was also established to provide health education and to enable them to benefit from available health services and improve nutrition practices.

The success of this project has prompted the replication of the programme not only in other parts of Jordan but in other countries in the eastern Mediterranean region. It is now being implemented in 12 out of the 22 member states of the Region and showing good results everywhere.

B- WHO Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA)

CEHA is the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities established in 1985 in Amman, Jordan, by WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO). CEHA serves as the technical and information exchange unit of the WHO Environmental Health Programme for the region.

CEHA's mandate is to promote environmental health through technical



Scavengers sifting through solid waste at Russefeh landfill

support for strengthening national capabilities and programmes in the member states of the region in the fields of community water supply and sanitation, promotion of healthy cities, villages and communities, environmental health risk assessment and management, food safety, chemical safety, and environmental health in refugee camps and emergencies. CEHA support to member states of EMRO includes:

Human resources development by supporting and sponsoring training courses, seminars, workshops and conferences at national and regional levels. CEHA

develops, adapts and translates relevant training and learning materials.

Information exchange through the Regional Environmental Health Information Network (CEHANET) which was launched in 1988. CEHANET promotes, networking among national environmental health information units in the region, and supports building the capacity of these units by providing systems, tools and human resources development.

Technical cooperation by providing expert advice on problem assessment, programme planning and institutional development.

Special studies and applied research by providing support to national professionals and institutions, on environmental health priority issues, such as drinking water quality, wastewater recycling and use, water conservation, solid waste management and air pollution.

### CEHA in Jordan

CEHA's support to Jordan is channelled through the Directorate of Environmental Health (DEH) of the Ministry of Health to other ministries and institutions involved in environmental

health services in the country. CEHA capacity building support to DEH includes training, technical support, and provision of equipment. Jordanian professionals benefit from CEHA regional and national training activities on priority environmental health issues. National professionals also participate at CEHA regional consultations, seminars and workshops. Jordanian institutions enjoy full access to the resources of CEHA information centre.

Jointly with WHO/HQs, CEHA provided technical and financial support to the Government of Jordan in developing the National

Strategy and Plan of Action for Health and Environment. Other assistance included identification of environmental health problems and programme development for bilateral and multilateral donor support.

Two special studies are being implemented to assess and analyse the impact of lead smelting plants and open waste dumping on the environment and the health of the surrounding communities. CEHA is also supporting the development of a biogas compost system in connection with the Quality of Life Project of Noor Al Hussein Foundation.



# UNRWA: Investing in people

**HADIA MAHMOUD** Ramadan never expected to be her family's breadwinner. But after her husband broke his back in an accident six years ago, she was too proud to live on charity. She started preparing foodstuffs at home to sell to neighbours. Now, two years later, Hadia — better known as Um Ahmad — is operating a small unit in Jabal Al Hussein Camp in Amman producing food ready for cooking. Um Ahmad and her colleagues sell a variety of foodstuffs including sliced carrots and spinach, lentils free from impurities, aubergine and courgette shells and sweets.

The unit was opened in February 1996 as a pilot project to generate income for women breadwinners. Um Ahmad is one of thousands of refugee women who have benefited from the training opportunities provided at the 23 women's programme centres established by UNRWA in Jordan. Until the late eighties, there were only 11 centres which used to provide women with traditional sewing courses and some health education.

But since 1987, these centres, and the 12 new centres which have opened in the interim, have been offering a wide range of courses including computer and business skills, legal literacy, civic education, and

household maintenance, in addition to traditional courses such as machine knitting, flower making and hairdressing. "Our aim is to prepare women for income-earning opportunities and to enhance their role in community development," explains Director of Relief and Social Services at UNRWA Headquarters in Amman Angela Williams. "The emphasis on programmes has shifted from providing refugees with direct relief to strategies of a more developmental character," she adds.

Empowering women with knowledge, enabling them to acquire the skills to earn a living and facilitating their role in their communities have been the centre-piece of UNRWA's work with women over the last few years. Legal literacy courses were conducted at several women's programme centres. A legal advice bureau was opened in Wihdat camp in 1994 and another one opened its door for business in Jabal Al Hussein camp in 1995.

Community savings and loan groups were set up in Wihdat, Jabal Al Hussein and Jerash camps to provide loans to members, mainly women, from a revolving fund. The fund was established this year with the women's own pooled savings and external funding to assist them in

starting up their own businesses. At the Jerash WPC, about 70 women earn an income through a wool spinning enterprise.

"All of this is part of our poverty alleviation strategy that targets the poorest of the refugees, in particular those registered with UNRWA as special hardship cases", says Ms. Williams. At the centre of this endeavour is the

In 1996, 22 families participated in the poverty alleviation programme to promote micro-enterprises, 17 of them achieving sufficient sustainable income to be removed from the agency's special hardship cases roll [which includes 34,000 people in Jordan].

Job creation goes hand in hand with the training programmes UNRWA provides for the children of Palestine

Mr. Ghabayen. "It's very rewarding to see that the trainees of both centres are offered work at the businesses and industries where they do their on-the-job training", he points out.

Ahmad Lutfi Sheikh Ali completed a land surveyor's course at WSTC in the early 1980s. After working in Saudi Arabia for two years, he returned to Jordan to work at WSTC as an instructor. Now he runs his own land surveying business and has hired 12 WSTC graduates.

In addition to training, UNRWA offers 10 years of basic education for approximately 148,000 boys and girls studying at 198 schools in Jordan. According to Mr. Ghabayen, a major achievement in the education programme has been to replace all dilapidated prefabricated premises with standard UNRWA school buildings. "But we still have a number of unsuitable rented premises which are badly in need of replacement", he added. In 1995-1996, thanks to special contributions from the donors, two buildings were opened in Baqa'a camp, two in Marka (Hittin) camp and one in Sukhneir near Zarqa. "Needless to say", Mr. Ghabayen adds, "improved facilities mean better education services".

Fully equipped computer laboratories, library rooms, science labs and multi-purpose activity facilities were installed in all new schools. "But our biggest achievement has been to provide quality education to several generations of refugees to enable them to become productive members of society", says Mr. Ghabayen.

In Baqa'a and Wihdat camps, UNRWA runs two centres for children with learning difficulties. Pupils in the first four grades who cannot catch up with the level of their classmates in mathematics and Arabic are referred to these centres where they receive special care in an encouraging educational environment. Ms. Raja' Omar, supervisor of these centres and the other six centres UNRWA opened in other areas in Jordan, says that children come to the centre for two or three

## UNRWA in figures

- Jordan -

(as of 30 June 1996)

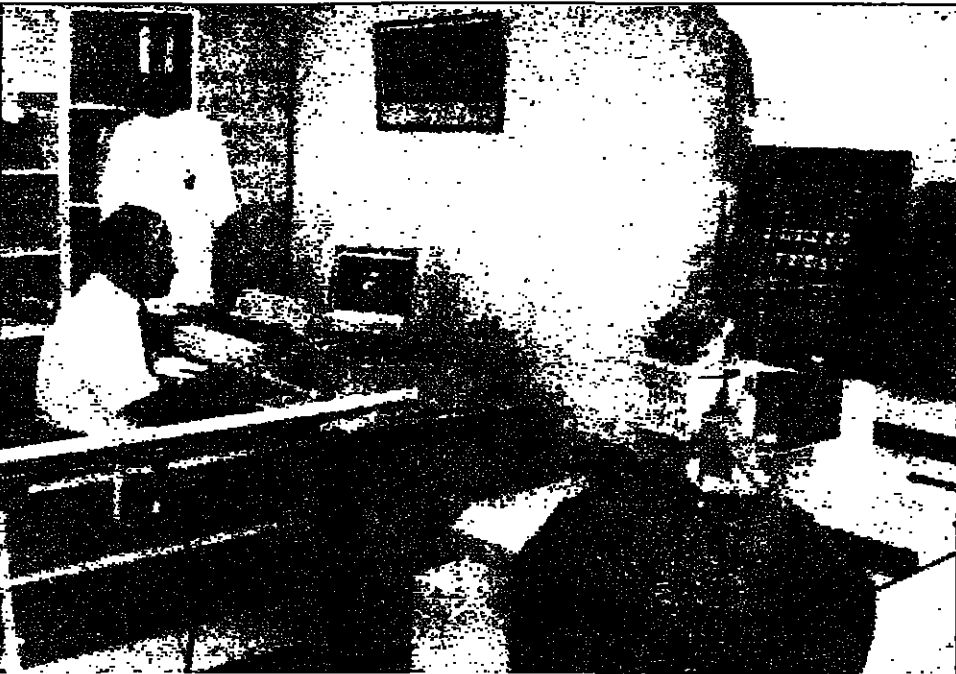
Registered refugees	1,358,706
Existing camps	10
Registered refugees in camps	258,204
Schools	198
Education staff	4,546
Pupils (1995/1996 enrolment)	148,004
Training centres	2
Health centres	23
Health staff	814
Special hardship cases	34,335
Women's programme centres	23
Community rehabilitation centres	8
Area staff	6,197
Regular budget-1996 (US \$ m)	\$ 74,322

income-generation loan programme. Launched in Jordan in 1991 with a starting capital of \$500,000, the programme now has a loan capital base of about \$830,000. It has financed some 125 enterprises and has created about 300 jobs.

refugees in Jordan at Amman and Wadi Seer training centres.

The training courses offered at the two centres are kept under constant revision to ensure that the trainees are trained in marketable skills. "It is with this purpose in mind that we introduced the industrial electronics course in Wadi Seer Training Centre (WSTC) in 1993", says Chief of UNRWA's Education Programme in Jordan Omar Ghabayen. The WSTC also offers semi-professional courses in architectural and civil engineering, land surveying and mechanical draughting, as well as vocational training in mechanical, electrical and building trades.

The Amman Training Centre prepares men and women at the post-secondary level for jobs as assistant pharmacists, assistant laboratory technicians and business administrators. "Over the last few years we've added new courses in banking and financial management, medical record keeping and secretarial skills", explains



Since 1991, UNRWA's income-generation loan programme has financed some 125 enterprises



Job creation goes hand in hand with training programmes

hours a day, but they spend the rest of the day at their original classes to study other subjects. "These centres may best be described as 'educational clinics' where we take remedial action to enable the children to catch up with their colleagues," says Ms. Omar.

In the playground of the Mashare' UNRWA school in the Jordan Valley, 10-year-old Mahmoud is talking to a friend in sign language. He picked it up from hearing-impaired schoolmates who were recently integrated into the general education programme.

These hearing-impaired children receive special education in a special unit within the school; but they participate with their peers in art and sports activities and spend breaks with schoolmates. Similar units have also been established in UNRWA schools in Baqa'a, Souf and Irbid camps. The units are run under the supervision of the local community-based rehabilitation centres, within each camp.

The welfare of refugee mothers and children is the major emphasis of UNRWA's health programme. By the turn of the century, two-thirds of refugees will consist of women of reproductive age and children below the age of 15. "Recognising this fact, the agency has put the stress on family health in its regular health care programme", explains Chief of UNRWA Health Programme in Jordan Nasha't

Ammari. UNRWA's 23 health centres and points in Jordan provide mother and child health services including family planning, in addition to ante-natal, natal and post-natal care. As part of the programme, Dr. Ammari points out, supplementary nutrition assistance is provided to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under the age of two. All these services are integrated into the agency's primary health care programme which also includes medical care services, both preventive and curative, and environmental health services in camps.

As with education, UNRWA has been able to improve the quality of its health facilities by replacing prefabricated premises with modern concrete health centres. "As a result of the strides we have made in improving the health of the refugees, and since healthier people live longer, our programme has had to face new challenges", says Dr. Ammari. "Today's challenges are those of a community in transition. We now have to cope with an increasing number of 'lifestyle diseases', which are more typical of industrialised countries, such as heart diseases, hypertension and diabetes. In response to this, the agency has added a non-communicable diseases programme which includes specialised clinics of diabetes and hypertension in all health centres and health points in Jordan," he explains. "Perhaps the greatest suc-

cess of the health programme is a hidden one, a persistence against the odds," says Dr. Ammari. UNRWA's health care has continued to improve amid an almost endless number of increasing complications. The number of patients receiving treatment continues to increase. This contrasts with a background of limited resources and an economic decline the Palestine refugee population had to face in recent years.

In providing its education, health and relief and social services to the Palestine refugees, UNRWA has had to work under adverse conditions and budgetary deficits most of the time since it commenced its activities in 1950. Thanks to the generous support of its donors and the host countries, together with the dedication of its staff, UNRWA has been able to survive. "Financial crises are not new to UNRWA, but rarely has the agency faced a financial crisis as serious as the present one, and never at a more critical moment", says Director of UNRWA Operations in Jordan Robert Hopkins. "Unless it receives the funds needed to continue providing services to the refugees, this unique U.N. programme of assistance is at a risk of collapse, which would be detrimental not only to the refugee community but would also have serious repercussions for host governments and for the stability of the entire region", Mr. Hopkins affirms.

## WFP and Jordan

# Long-standing partners for development

JORDAN, A FOOD deficit country with a limited natural resource base, continues to place food security high on its national policy agenda. The partnership between the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Jordan (GOJ) began right after the establishment of WFP itself in 1963, with a WFP-assisted pilot project for bedouin settlement and improvement of nomadic sheep husbandry. WFP's continued assistance to Jordan to date has reached more than \$192 million worth of food aid, plus more than \$11 million of additional inputs to improve the managerial, monitoring and evaluation capacity of the national project authorities. In addition, WFP has supplied equipment and materials to upgrade the implementation of joint WFP/GOJ projects.

All this assistance has proved instrumental in helping Jordan through the various stages of its socio-economic development, by actively addressing food security and poverty alleviation, mainly through underwriting soil/water conservation measures and protection and upgrading of the environment and natural resources.

So far, a total of 25 development projects and 14 emergency operations at a total cost to WFP of more than \$155.5 million have been completed in Jordan. Projects have ranged from settlement of bedouins to agricultural development (covering soil/water conser-

vation, olive/fruit tree planting, afforestation/range improvement, water harvesting) as well as emergency food assistance to drought-affected people and to displaced persons.

The current cycle of WFP assistance to Jordan which started in the early 1990s covers two major sectors through three large scale projects: One in support of human resource development, the second for agricultural development of the highland regions and the third for development of forestry and rangelands, all at the total cost to WFP of \$36.5 million.

The purpose of the development of the highland agricultural region project at a cost of \$25.6 million over 7 years, is to make more productive use of an area of 15,000 hectares of arable highlands where erosion is rampant by establishing fruit trees on idle and/or low-yielding land at present planted with field crops. Water harvesting, that is, the construction of terraces, cisterns, and windbreaks aimed at supporting the government in undertaking soil and water conservation measures will also be performed by some 8,000 farmers. Employment opportunities for some 2,500 workers, including women, are expected to be generated as a result of soil conservation activities and nursery works. Benefiting from this project are workers employed at the Ministry of Agriculture nurseries and farmers/land holders from the private sec-



WFP food rations are distributed to 228,000 primary school children, 10,400 adults attending literacy courses, 3400 women trainees and 5200 pre-school children

tor. Another ongoing WFP agriculture project for the Development of Forestry and Rangelands (at a cost of \$4.7 million over 5 years), aims to regenerate the natural vegetation and forest cover and to improve rangelands in semi-arid regions by undertaking 7,500 hectares of afforestation and expanding rangelands by 14,500 hectares. In addition, water resources activities, such as construction of check dams and reservoirs, will be carried out from the balance of generated funds. As such, the thrust of this project is also environmental.

The main objectives of the human resources development project are: to maintain the current high rates of enrolment and attendance at rural primary schools, which

are likely to fall as a result of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP); to increase enrolment of adults, particularly of women in rural areas, in literacy classes; and to develop income-generating skills and facilitate operation of kindergartens in poor rural areas in order to release mothers for productive activities.

WFP food rations will be distributed to 228,000 primary school children, 10,400 adults attending literacy courses, 3,400 women trainees and 5,200 pre-school children. Due to the lifting of food subsidies, and to alleviate the negative effects of the SAP, this project is being extended until August 1997.

These and other future WFP projects are expected to support Jordanian efforts

towards:

- Poverty alleviation and food security.
- Preservation of natural resources and protection of the environment.
- Afforestation and rangeland development.
- Employment and sustainable development.
- Empowerment of women through training and income-generating projects.

Given rural household food shortages in agricultural and pastoral communities, the food aid provided by WFP is an appropriate resource. Many farmers depend on cereal production to meet family food needs. However, declining soil fertility, unstable climatic conditions, and inappropriate land preparation techniques all undermine production potential. Food aid will therefore reduce the need of

poor farmers to borrow money to purchase food, and will release them for more self-sustaining productive activities.

Participants will also derive greater benefits through the expansion of existing range cooperative areas and supplement their income from productive activities supporting land development. The project will also apply more systematic techniques in soil and water conservation improvement and fruit tree management. Forestry activities have also been developed, based upon the criteria of improving sustainability and people's access to forest products.

In order to rectify a past inadequate response to women's needs, the project will also support viable activities specifically targeted to increase women's income through employment in nurseries and their participation in productive activities. Women will also enjoy access to training in productive income-generating activities and extension services, with a special emphasis on women-headed households.

It is a source of pride and satisfaction that the long-standing partnership for development between WFP and Jordan has persistently withstood the test of time over more than three decades and will certainly flourish, in a qualitative manner, as we approach the dawn of a new millennium.

## World Food Programme Facts and figures



Jointly set up in 1962 by the United Nations (U.N.) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to provide food aid to developing countries, WFP is now the front-line U.N. Agency mandated to assist developing countries implement their socio-economic plans and overcome man-made or natural emergencies.

WFP today is the world's largest food aid agency, with a budget of \$1.5 billion and more than 4,000 humanitarian workers undertaking emergency and development operations now benefiting 57 million people in 93 countries the world over. WFP is now an independent U.N. agency directed by an executive board of 36 member states from both developed and developing countries (U.N. resolutions 47/199 and 48/162), which meets on a rotating basis twice a year to decide on budgets, policy matters and project submissions.

Food aid provided by WFP (e.g. 2.8 million tonnes in 1995 alone) is not charity nor is it just feeding hungry people; it is primarily intended as a long-term investment in their future, a future where the poverty that haunts the prospects of lasting peace and sustainable development can be progressively overcome.

Food aid is, therefore, geared towards socio-economic development, through such projects as mobilising

the rural unemployed, feeding schoolchildren, land settlement, community development and participatory land improvement.

To carry out its mandate, WFP undertakes two kinds of action:

a. It uses emergency response teams to cover the food needs of families fleeing armed conflict, or villages suffering the misery of drought/natural disasters.

b. It uses innovative development projects, where food aid is focused on helping governments to fight environmental degradation and helping disadvantaged people reach an acceptable level of food security/self-reliance and to climb out of the trap of poverty.

WFP's resources come from voluntary pledges from over 100 countries in the form of commodities (65%) and cash/services (35%).

The Programme's "food basket" which contains some 50 commodities, is purchased, in large part, from developing countries which proves all the more that WFP not only sustains the economies of nations.

In addition, WFP allocates some 10% of its resources to provide tools, equipment, training, monitoring, evaluation, to ensure successful implementation of WFP-assisted projects.

Over the years, WFP has proved beyond doubt the food aid works.



# UNESCO: Preserving world heritage

FOR CENTURIES after the Crusaders left it, Petra remained dormant and unknown to the rest of the world, until Swiss Colonel J. Burkhart rediscovered it in 1812. In the years that followed, adventure seekers and scholars who had come across Col. Burkhart's writings and sketches of the "lost city" ventured out to see it for themselves. Nevertheless, Petra remained

almost untouched and its landscape preserved until the past few decades. Attracted by the same mystique that lured ancient travellers, tourists began flocking to Petra in droves. In 1985, Petra's unique historical and cultural value was universally recognised when it was placed on the World Heritage List (WHL) of UNESCO's Convention for the Protection of the

World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The Convention, adopted by UNESCO at its 1972 general conference, was signed by countries which committed themselves to conserving, within their borders, the sites and monuments recognised to be of exceptional universal value, and whose protection is the responsibility of all mankind.

Among the sites included on the World Heritage List (by January 1996, a total of 469 historical sites in the 143 states that had adopted the convention) are the old city of Jerusalem and its walls, the old city of Damascus and the Nubian monuments of Abu Simbel and Philae in upper Egypt.

The convention also created a World Heritage Fund which allows it to call upon international support for the conservation of cultural and natural wonders on the list. The fund finances studies, technical projects, training of specialists and the purchase of equipment to ensure the preservation and protection of these sites according to international standards and rules.

In 1994, at the request of Her Majesty Queen Noor, UNESCO international experts drafted the Petra National Park management plan to preserve archaeological remains, protect the natural landscape and restore monuments. Since

then, the UNESCO office in Amman in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities has been implementing some of the recommendations of the Management Plan, in particular those concerning monument protection and preservation.

Last year, field work to protect the theatre area in Petra from rain water erosion led to the discovery of the monument's ancient drainage system. This system was then excavated and restored to prevent future flooding during heavy rainfall. This year, another project funded by UNESCO is underway to prevent damage to monuments in central Petra, caused by flash floods in the area.

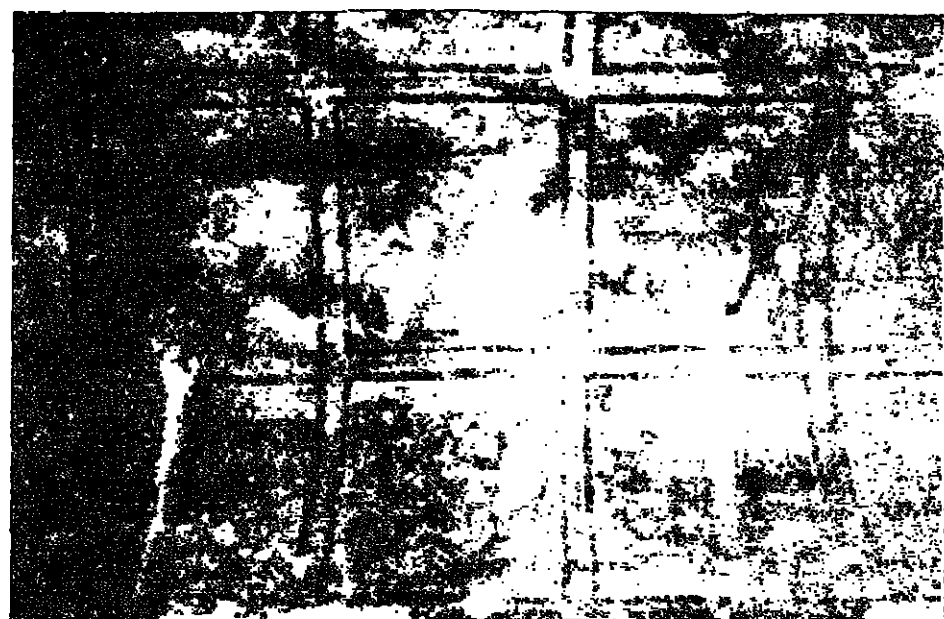
The monument of Qusair Amra, which contains the remains of a bath complex, and audience hall and a sophisticated hydraulic system, is another Jordanian site recorded on the World Heritage List. Built by the Umayyad caliphs, the monument is the best preserved architectural structure of its kind in the Syrian and Jordanian steppe and its interior fresco decorations are a unique expression of the art of that era. Mentioned by pilgrims on their way to Mecca and by Col. Burkhart during his travels, it had been completely forgotten until traveller A. Musil saw it for the first time in 1898. Inspired

by a bedouin legend about a "little palace decorated with paintings" situated in a "dangerous part of the desert," Mr. Musil carefully documented the monument in his writings.

Qusair Amra is located in the valley of Wadi Butum which collects rainwater from a large watershed. Although a dam was built to protect the monument, it failed to prevent damage to the site. Urgent preventive measures to protect Qusair Amra from flooding during torrential rains in winter was undertaken by UNESCO. In addition, UNESCO is currently preparing a proposal for the global protection and preservation of the site and its environment.

UNESCO recognises that cultural landscapes such as Petra and Qusair Amra are precious testimonials to Jordan's past. Development and mass tourism pose major threats to the unique natural and archaeological environment of these sites. Through its field work, UNESCO strives not only to conserve the past but also to create awareness among the Jordanian people of their heritage.

As a result, the UNESCO office in Amman plans to strengthen its role in this field. It will assist Jordan and other Arab countries to rediscover and conserve their cultural heritage — natural and historical.



UNESCO is preparing a proposal for the global protection and preservation of Qusair Amra

## What is UNESCO?



UNESCO, THE UNITED Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, is a specialised agency of the United Nations. It currently comprises 171 member states (October 1992), compared with 20 at the time of its founding in 1946.

Formed to keep a watchful eye on world developments in education, science and technology, social and human sciences, and culture, UNESCO helps member states find answers to key problems that beset our societies in areas within its competence. UNESCO is involved in a broad range of activities. And although its acronym makes no mention

of communication, UNESCO plays a crucial role in fields ranging from information exchange to the establishment of communication infrastructure.

UNESCO's constitution declares that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is the duty of men to build the defences of peace must be constructed." Building these defences through international intellectual cooperation remains UNESCO's prime objective.

UNESCO also contributes to the translation of certain masterpieces of world literature and the recording of traditional music from all regions of the world. It participates in the prevention of drug abuse and AIDS through education programmes and through a centre set up to gather, assess and distribute educational material on AIDS prevention (ASERC — AIDS School Education Resource Centre — at UNESCO headquarters, Paris). A major focus of UNESCO's work is ensuring basic education for all.

## UNIFEM: Empowering Jordanian women economically

ONE OF the principal aims of UNIFEM's empowerment programme is to increase women's access to and control over the means to make a living on a sustainable and long-term basis. In Jordan, one of the approaches toward women's economic empowerment was to target national institutions for the development of women's enterprises and support them in developing their financial, training or business counselling services.

In 1993, UNIFEM launched a project to identify the needs and obstacles facing women entrepreneurs. Four key areas were identified: Training, access to credit, access to business counselling services and market-related difficulties. Subsequently, a number of governmental and non-governmental institutions were selected as partners to provide an outreach network to low-income women throughout Jordan.

"While female employment in Jordan is relatively low, we are working with the national institutions to promote women's role in the private sector," says UNIFEM Project Manager in Jordan Maha Khattib. "The main employer of women in Jordan has been for many years the public sector. However, there is a present trend to limit public service employment and promote the development of the private sector. UNIFEM's intervention has been in response to these policy directions in Jordan to allow women to take a leading role in the economic development of the country."

"UNIFEM seeks innovative interventions related to women's economic empowerment; it works towards introducing new concepts and approaches in this field," says UNIFEM's Regional Advisor Zohra Merabet. "One of these approaches is the planned Small Business Incubator to be established at the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) with support from the Government of Japan," adds Ms. Merabet.

A business incubator is a comprehensive package of facilities and services to small enterprises to cut down on the initial capital start-up costs. The facilities and services provided include accounting ser-



UNIFEM's income-generating projects provide rural women with credit to start up small businesses

vices, office facilities, market research and business counselling. These services are provided to emerging enterprises until they are ready to graduate into the market and cover the cost of these services from their own resources.

According to Hala Ibrahim, a BPWC board member coordinating the programme, "the incubator which will be established in March 1997 is a pilot project in Jordan and the Arab region. Building upon the experience of the club, we believe that we will succeed in providing quality services that are very much needed by women entrepreneurs in Jordan."

UNIFEM, in cooperation with ESCWA, has worked with the Ministry of Social Development on the implementation of pilot training workshops for women on "How to start your own business" particularly targeting low-income and unemployed women. This

training allows women to analyse the business environment and make a choice regarding their projects as well as negotiate with financial institutions. Khawla, an out-of-work beautician, joined the workshop to learn how to open her own photography studio for women and children. After carrying out the market study and the project plan, Khawla discovered that her idea was feasible. The capital to start up the project could be secured through a loan from one of the financial institutions identified by the workshop. Equipped with management and accounting principles, Khawla is confident she can make a success of her new venture.

Another important pilot project for women's economic empowerment funded by UNIFEM has been carried out by Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). The project

targets rural women through providing them with credit (JD 1,200) which enables them to buy ten goats. Souad, one of the project's beneficiaries, became the head of her household after her husband remarried, denying her of any source of income. After receiving the loan from the QAF, she started a sheep-raising project and has also begun making dairy products for her family's consumption. Now Souad is thinking of expanding her project to include raising hens and selling the eggs in the market.

UNIFEM and the QAF are planning to expand this project to benefit women from eight Jordanian villages. The rural centres of the QAF form the outreach network for administering the loans. These centres also provide community education, training and raising women's awareness.

## United Nations Development Fund For Women (UNIFEM)

UNIFEM WAS created in 1976 to promote the economic and political empowerment of women in developing countries. UNIFEM also acts as a catalyst within the U.N. system to link the needs and concerns of women to all critical issues on the



national, regional and global agendas. UNIFEM has 10 regional programmes worldwide. The Western Asia pro-

gramme was established in Amman in 1994 and covers 14 Arab countries. On the occasion of the International Day for Women in 1996, HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal was appointed as UNIFEM's Ambassador of Goodwill.

## HABITAT: Building rooftops across the world

THE UNITED Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), also known as Habitat, was established in Nairobi, Kenya in 1978, two years after the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I). UNCHS is responsible for the formulation and implementation of human settlements programmes worldwide. It serves as a think-tank within the United Nations system, utilising its research and technical analysis capacity to assist governments in improving the development and management of human settlements. The Centre's operations combine technical advice, applied research, training and information.

Deficiencies in data and lack of serious quantitative analysis considerably hamper the ability of governments to develop effective housing sector policies and other strategies which have major impacts on the housing sector. There is often no clear sense of the norms in a well-functioning housing sector, or of how to move toward those norms. As a result, costly policy failures occur, inhibiting the development of the housing sector and frustrating broader development objectives. In October 1990, the World Bank and UNCHS initiated the Housing Indicators Programme which is

expected to continue through 1996 with the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held in Turkey this year. It is an outgrowth, and an essential step in the implementation of the Global Shelter Strategy for the year 2000, endorsed by the U.N. General Assembly in 1988. The global objective of the Housing Indicators Programme in general, and the extensive survey in particular, was to develop conceptual, analytical and institutional frameworks for managing the housing sector as a whole.

The Global Shelter Strategy calls for a fundamental shift in government's role in housing. Instead of providing housing directly — a policy which has failed — the strategy seeks a role which facilitates, energises and supports the private sector's activities in housing development. This shift requires governments to obtain a broader overview of the housing sector as a whole, and to better understand the mechanisms governing its performance. There is a widespread recognition among governments that this requires substantive data and an improved, policy-oriented analysis of such data.

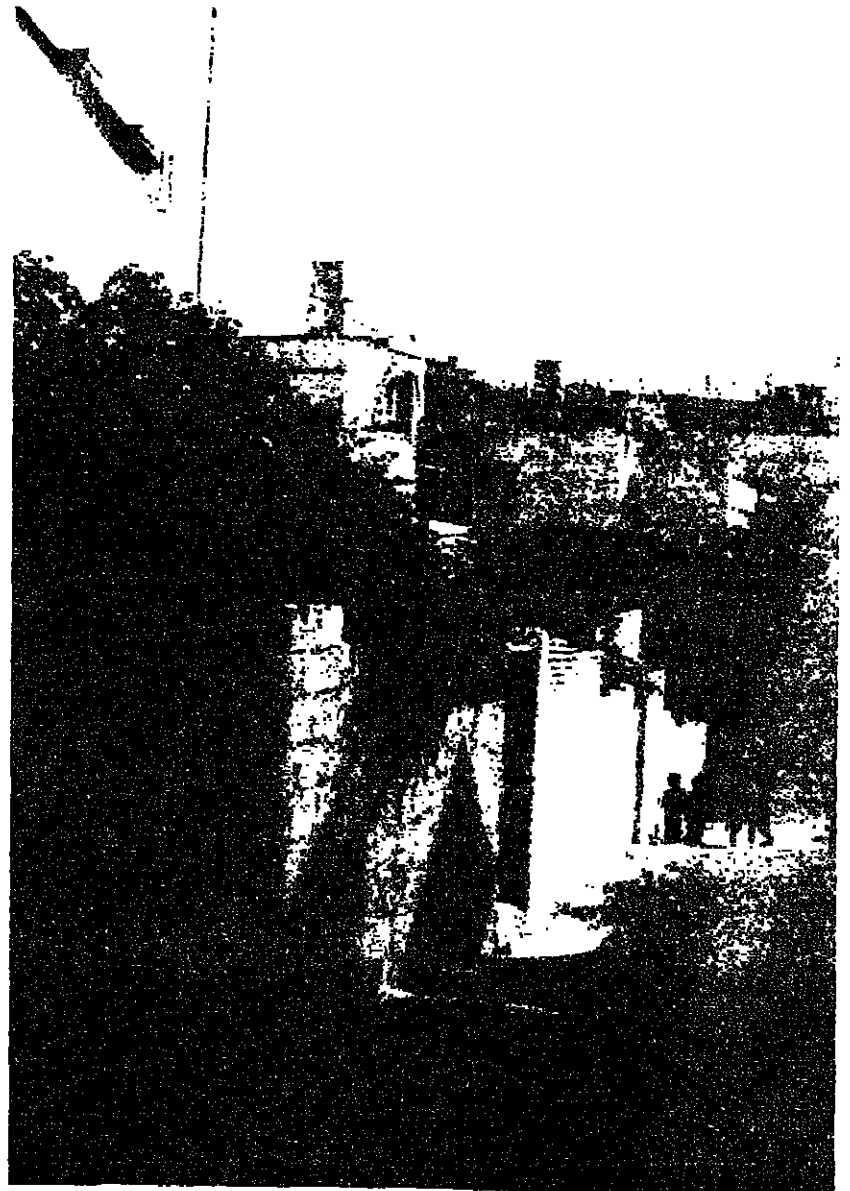
## National strategy addresses shortage of low-income housing in Jordan

IN THE PAST thirty years, the East Bank of Jordan experienced rapid population growth, increasing from about 600,000 persons in 1952 to over 2,000,000 in 1979. The 1979 census also confirmed the continued expansion of the Amman Governorate at the expense of other governorates in the Kingdom. The population of Amman Governorate which accounted for about one-third of the East Bank in 1952, rose to over half in 1972. More than 60 per cent of the East Bank population was concentrated within a radius of 30 kilometres from the city centre of Amman.

There was a need to examine carefully the nature and the scope of the housing problem, particularly in Amman, through a review of existing information and by initiating additional research. In 1994, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) assisted the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) in Jordan in conducting an extensive survey within the context of the Housing Indicators Programme.

The Government of Jordan, in cooperation with UNCHS, formulated the National Housing Strategy (NHS) based on Jordan's shortage of low-income housing, particularly in urban areas. The rise of the cost of housing relative to income contributes to the present shortage. The problem in urban areas extends beyond the supply of housing to include the scarcity of land serviced with water, electricity, roads and sewerage.

The NHS spelled out the medium and long-term solutions for these problems. Based on thorough research and analysis, the NHS will formulate a set of alternative strategies so that the appropriate Jordanian authorities can make an informed decision of the best strategy for their overall objectives. Each alternative will have been evaluated according to its risk factor, financial constraints and its feasibility within the given time frame.



Modest dwellings replace shacks

The NHS also addressed the role, responsibilities, mandate and working relationships of the Shelter unit at the HUDC, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the NHS. The unit was assigned to design alternative national strategies for housing and urban development.



## UNICEF in Jordan: Partnership for the benefit of children and women

\* The one-year-old girl of a poor family in a drought-stricken southern village grows up healthy and active — in part because she received supplementary food packages during the year when her father's income was not enough to secure enough nutritious food for the entire family.

\* Immunization for measles, DPT, polio and other childhood diseases is above 90% in Jordan — largely because of the efficient vaccine cold chain system that reaches even the most remote rural regions and the most needy urban areas.

\* A family that found itself unemployed due to economic hardship is earning enough money to feed and educate its children — thanks to home gardening and sewing projects the parents funded with loans from a Jordanian social development agency.

The common denominator in these and many other cases is the drama of people fighting back against adversity — individuals and families battling and vanquishing the pressures of declining living standards due to economic regression or regional conflicts.

UNICEF contributed to all these programmes in one way or another — using the support that it gets from you to enhance the life prospects of children throughout Jordan. These cases are typical of how the Jordanian people and government work hand-in-hand with UNICEF to reaffirm the tradition of caring, hope and collective self-help that has always defined Jordan as its rich human legacy.

UNICEF, founded in 1946, is the only UN organization dedicated exclusively to children. Many of the world's finest impulses and best intentions come together around children.

### Jordanian milestones since 1990

CURRENTLY, JORDAN boasts admirable progress towards the social development goals set for the 1990s and beyond, namely in immunization coverage rates, girl child status, literacy rates, health and nutritional standards, which stand among the highest in the region, and are a tribute to the fruitful cooperation between Jordan and UNICEF.

1990 UNICEF launched a \$ 7 million emergency programme in support of national efforts to meet urgent needs of influx evacuees and returnees caused by the Gulf war.

1991 Jordan ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1992 The National Conference for Children convened and endorsed a set of goals and strategies forming the basis of Jordan's National Plan of Action for Children.

1993 Jordan began a new 5-million-dollar Programme of Cooperation with UNICEF covering the period 1993-1997 to help Jordan fulfil its commitment to children as outlined in the National Plan of Action for Children, and as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1995 Jordan achieves Mid-Decade Goals related to immunization coverage rates, oral rehydration therapy use, and primary school enrolment rates, salt iodization and awareness of child health.

Also in the same year, a National Task Force for Children was established with a mandate to keep children's issues high on the national agenda, and monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Jordan's National Plan of Action for Children.

1996 The National Task Force for Children, founded in 1995, started operating.

UNICEF helps translate them into action, mustering the necessary political will and material resources. It cooperates with other UN agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities to meet children's needs and to protect their rights.

UNICEF, which is marking its 50th anniversary this year, works in developing countries, including Jordan, on behalf of children whose future is endangered by poverty, preventable diseases, malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and the lack of educational opportunities.

Narrowing and eventually eliminating gender disparities and promoting the full rights of women and girls are central to UNICEF's

work. UNICEF helps bring immunization, salt iodization, oral rehydration therapy, safe water, sanitation and improvements in curriculum and teacher training to communities. UNICEF is governed by a 36-member executive board that establishes policies, reviews programmes, and approves expenditures.

UNICEF currently has more than 200 offices in 115 developing countries. A network of 34 committees in industrialized nations promotes support for UNICEF programmes through fund raising, advocacy, education, and information activities.

UNICEF country programmes, of which Jordan is one, are formulated in consultation with governments. They encompass

cooperation with people from all parts of society including government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, teachers, parents and children.

Jordan has been a leader in the Middle East in reducing infant mortality rates, and in providing all its children with access to education, health services, shelter, clean water and electricity. Yet the great strides of the last three decades were threatened in recent years by a series of economic and political shocks that could have set back the life prospects of perhaps hundreds of thousands of Jordanian children. Though vigilance is still needed to ensure that the poor do not suffer long-term health and social problems, the threat of wholesale suffering has been largely averted — because the government, the private sector, NGOs, UNICEF and other international partners worked together to identify immediate needs and to respond to them.

UNICEF is working closely with Jordanians to formulate policies, map out strategies, assist in implementation and evaluation of programmes, and generally help improve the quality of life of Jordanian children and women. It uses its modest resources to implement interventions that can have the most significant impact on the greatest number of people. UNICEF and Jordan are working together closely to achieve the following national goals by 1997:

- 1- Reduce the infant mortality rate from 31 to 25 deaths per 1000 live births, and the under-five mortality rate from 38 to 35.
- 2- Reduce maternal mortality rates.
- 3- Empower all Jordanians with the basic knowledge and skills needed for healthy living and to contribute to the progress of their communities.

## MENA region: Leaders in achieving goals for children

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on Sept. 30 this year presented to the United Nations' General Assembly, his report on progress made to achieve a set of goals for children by the end of 1995.

Back in September 1990, world leaders and heads of government from 159 countries pledged their support to a set of goals for children to be reached by the year 2000. These goals will reduce child and maternal mortality and ensure that every child has access to education, adequate health care, clean water and proper sanitation. To ensure steady progress, it agreed in 1993 to a set of intermediate goals to be reached by the end of 1995 and the U.N. Secretary General was asked to report to the U.N. General Assembly on progress made globally towards these goals. These were:

— At least 80 per cent of children to be immunised against diphtheria, measles, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis and whooping cough in all countries.

— Measles deaths and cases to be cut by 95 and 90 per cent respectively.

— Eradication of polio in selected countries.

— Elimination of neonatal tetanus.

— Oral rehydration therapy to be used in at least 80 per cent of diarrhoea cases.

— Interruption of guinea worm disease transmission in all affected villages.

— Reduction of 1990 levels of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under five by one fifth.

— Iodisation of at least 90 per cent of edible salt.

— Adequate vitamin A for at least 80 per cent of children under the age of two at risk of vitamin A deficiency.

— All hospitals and maternity facilities to become 'baby-friendly'.

— Reduce by one quarter the gap between 1990 levels of safe water supply and the year 2000 goal.

— Reduce by one tenth the gap between 1990 levels of sanitation provision and the year 2000 goal.

— Universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The U.N. Secretary General review of the progress made for children since the 1990 World Summit for Children shows that there has been dramatic progress on most goals in most countries. Over 80 per cent of the world's children are now covered by immunisation services and some countries have already reached or surpassed the goal of 90 per cent immunisation services set for the year 2000. Oral rehydration therapy is now being used to prevent dehydration and death in the vast majority of diarrhoea episodes in the developing world. Polio and guinea worm diseases are on the verge of eradication and several thousand hospitals are now officially recognised as 'baby-friendly' as a result of their efforts to promote and encourage breastfeeding. Since 1990, an additional 1.5 billion people have begun to consume iodised salt, protecting around 12 million infants each year from iodine deficiency, a leading cause of preventable mental retardation. Above all, there is now a greater recognition of children's rights, reflected in the almost universal ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Carol Bellamy, UNICEF executive director, said at the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly, held to review the Mid-Decade progress: "There can be no doubt that millions of children are alive today because of the extra efforts set in motion since the World Summit for Children — in fact, one million fewer children will die this year than in 1990. And thanks to improved health and education, millions more children will have a better chance to break the cycle of poverty and fulfill their potential. However,



The convention on the Rights of the Child is infusing new energy and ideas into the struggle on behalf of children

much remains to be done. Almost one-third of all children under the age of five in the developing world are malnourished, and malnutrition still contributes to more than half the deaths of young children in developing countries. Furthermore, the number of women dying as a result of pregnancy and child birth remains appallingly high, an estimated 600,000 maternal deaths each year.

### MENA and mid-decade goals achievements

Most countries in the MENA region have reached the goals. Immunisation rates are significantly higher for polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and measles than in 1990, and the incidence of these vaccine-preventable diseases has dropped correspondingly. School enrollments overall are higher, and particularly for girls. Some improvement has been made in closing the gender gap in access to schooling.

Gulf Cooperation Council for Health Ministries have demonstrated strong commitment to the implementation of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and promotion of breast feeding in their countries. Bahrain and Oman from among the Gulf countries are pioneers in this area of support to breastfeeding.

The most significant gain was the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in all but one country of the region. This, in turn facilitated discussion about the rights of the child. There was a tremendous sensitisation of political leaders and it became possible to consider the needs of children, and to formulate programmes to benefit them, at the highest levels. Reform of the legal system has begun in some countries to facilitate the implementation of the CRC. Tunisia stands out as the leader in this area by establishing a Code for Child Protection and appointing ombudspersons at the local level to monitor child rights.

As a result of the discussion of the needs of children, it is now possible to acknowledge the needs of special groups of children, including nomadic children, displaced children in Sudan, the rural child and the girl child, and to target

resources and programmes for them.

The goals that have been most successfully pursued are those that are favoured by strong national commitment, from senior national leaders, and even from heads of state or government. Some of the goals deal with problems that were previously seen as unsolvable: for example, with iodine deficiency or vitamin A deficiency, or where girls' or women's illiteracy is concerned, it was first necessary to convince planners and the general public that these could be alleviated. Advocacy and extensive discussion of these issues have been most helpful in raising them in the public's attention, and in putting them on the policy agendas at the highest levels.

Finally, sharing experiences and lessons learnt among countries and agencies on the progress toward the goals created additional incentive for individual countries to reach their own goals. The Arab plan for children, and the system of 'focal points' developed with the League of Arab States has benefited progress toward the goals. By bringing together regularly at the Arab League HQS, the officials responsible for child programmes' implementation, lessons learnt were exchanged and progress compared to implement them. As results began to be visible and reported, it further energised work at high-level public form and it became more possible to discuss children in especially difficult circumstances, including child labour, and child abuse. It is now possible to discuss the relationship of female genital mutilation to maternal mortality in a new and more open way. The recent success of the MENA regional consultation on the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a case in point.

UNICEF Regional Office of the Middle East and North Africa contributed to the progress made towards keeping the promise for children. By setting regional priorities and providing technical expertise to country offices, it facilitated individual country progress towards the achievement of these goals. Much of the technical support took the

form of manuals and communication support material, and training workshops to upgrade skills in various related fields. The Regional Office also helped keep child issues on the political agenda through its advocacy with governments, and regional bodies such as the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Organisation of African Unity. Particular focus was directed at the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The progress towards achieving the Mid-Decade goals in MENA, put the region at the forefront of global progress towards these goals.

### The Convention on the Rights of the Child

One important tool UNICEF is using to improve the situation of children around the world is the convention on the Rights of the Child. The convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 and has been ratified by all but a few countries. The Convention sets out the right of all children to healthy and productive lives. It is the most widely and most rapidly accepted human rights treaty in history, changing the concept of caring for children from child needs to child rights.

Once a country has ratified the convention, it commits itself to putting its provisions into effect through new or revised laws and other measures. With the convention, the world has charted a remarkable new course on behalf of children. Political will and the determination, action and vigilance of a wide range of groups in every society are now needed to ensure that countries stay on the vital course.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is infusing new energy and ideas into the struggle on behalf of children, widening the range of steps that can be taken to ensure children's first call on the resources and care of their families, communities and the world. UNICEF is guided by the Convention as it works towards the year 2000 goals for children set out at the 1990 World Summit for Children.

## UNICEF's response to crises

WHEN CRISIS threatens children, UNICEF responds.

For much of the Middle East and the developing world, modern Jordan has been a model of balanced and sustained human development that addresses the basic needs of all its citizens. However, in recent years the country has suffered from a series of economic and political blows. Due to the sharp drop in the value of the dinar, the economic shock of the Gulf war, the government's economic austerity programme, rising unemployment and poverty, and the influx of over 350,000 Gulf war returnees, Jordanian children found themselves under new social and economic pressures.

In response, UNICEF increased its cooperation with the Jordanian government and introduced programmes to help the most threatened by the new situation. The first was a major emergency operation to deal with over one million third-country nationals who passed through Jordan on their way home in 1990-1991.

The second was to increase its assistance to needy Jordanians.

UNICEF introduced its emergency programmes in 1990-1991 valued at nearly \$7 million. Alongside these short-term efforts, UNICEF continues to implement assistance programmes for children in:

### Education

UNICEF has focused its intervention on improving the quality of education through training teachers, establishing kindergartens,



preparing audio-visual material for parents, and providing teaching aids.

### Action-oriented school health project

One of UNICEF's programmes which aims at improving family health by training teachers to convey basic health messages to children. The children, in turn, use their new knowledge to promote healthy habits at home and in their community.

### Global education

This leading project aims at equipping students with skills needed in the 21st century. Based on interactive learning approaches, the project is designed to develop students' critical faculties and problem-solving skills.

### Better parenting

Studies indicate that only 12-20% of children are enrolled in pre-school education. This prompted UNICEF to embark on a video-based educational programme on proper early childhood development practices which helps parents provide a stimulating environment at home for their children.

### Health

UNICEF has extended remarkable support to Jordan's immunization efforts. It has contributed vaccines and cold chain equipment,

trained personnel, and assisted in vaccination coverage surveys. It has provided Jordan with oral rehydration salts, which are essential for the treatment of diarrhoeal diseases in children, and has helped disseminate information on treatment of diarrhoeal diseases. It also participates in extensive training for the treatment and prevention of acute respiratory infections — the number one killer of infants in Jordan — and promotes the use of Maternal and Child Health Centres.

### Childhood disabilities

UNICEF-Jordan is beginning to focus on both the early detection and the prevention of childhood disability. It helps train personnel in the field, and has supported the establishment of a disability early detection centre in Amman.

### Community-based rehabilitation project in Maftaq

Supported in part by UNICEF funds, the Jordanian Swedish Medical Association (JSMA) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) established and implemented this project with the aim of helping the local community to meet the needs of their disabled children by raising their awareness of the rights of the disabled to play, socialize, health care and attend school, and empowering them to look

after themselves. Community-based health project at Prince Hassan Camp (Amman):

Partly with UNICEF support, ADRA established the programme in order to improve the health standard and survival of women and children under five by 1998 through emphasizing the following:

- 1- Exclusive breastfeeding.
- 2- Treatment of diarrhoea.
- 3- Proper weaning practices.
- 4- Birth spacing.
- 5- Hygiene education.
- 6- Prenatal & postnatal care.
- 7- Nutrition.
- 8- Growth monitoring.

### Income generation

Jordan's unemployment levels reached unprecedented heights in 1991, following the Gulf crisis. In response, UNICEF surveyed existing income-generating projects to identify weaknesses and areas where additional support is needed. The major needs were identified in the areas of management, production, and marketing.

### Revolving fund

A UNICEF financial grant helped establish a Revolving Loan Fund administered through the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund.

It gives needy women, small businesses and agro-based enterprises the opportunity to obtain modest loans that would not be readily available through commercial credit institutions. As loans are repaid, the money is perpetually re-used to fund other small business ventures.







## Security and freedom

# UNHCR: Its mandate and concerns



"One of the greatest challenges of the 21st century will be to ensure that people in every part of the world enjoy security and freedom: security from armed conflict, violence, human right abuses and poverty; and the freedom to realise their personal potential, to participate in the governance of their country, and to express their individual and collective identity."

Those were the words of Mrs. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees explaining the concerns of UNHCR in a changing world, where the quest for security and freedom continues to be the challenge. There is no doubt that people when deprived from security and freedom, cross international borders to seek asylum and find international protection.

As of Dec. 31, 1995, UNHCR protects and assists 26 million people who have fled war or persecution. The number of uprooted people around the world, including all estimated displaced within their own countries, approaches 50 million. One of every 115 people on earth has been forced into flight. UNHCR's mandate and concerns are explained hereunder.

## What is international protection?

Most people can look to their own governments to guarantee and protect their basic human rights and physical security. But in the

case of refugees, the country of origin has proved itself unable or unwilling to protect those rights. UNHCR is mandated to ensure that refugees are protected by their country of asylum, and assists that government as far as possible in that task. UNHCR is not (and would not wish to be) a supranational organization, and therefore cannot substitute for the protection of a state. UNHCR's main role is to ensure that states are aware of, and act on, their obligations to protect refugees and persons seeking asylum.

## What rights does a refugee have?

A refugee has the right to safe asylum. However, international protection comprises more than physical safety. Refugees should receive at least the same rights and basic help as any other foreigner who is a legal resident, including certain fundamental entitlements of every individual. Thus refugees have basic civil rights, including the freedom of thought, of movement, freedom from torture and degrading treatment. Similarly, economic and social rights apply to refugees as they do to other individuals. Every refugee should have access to medical care. Every adult refugee should have the right to work. No refugee child should be deprived of schooling. Refugees also have certain obligations. In particular, they should conform to the laws of their country of asylum.

## Does UNHCR actually decide who is a refugee, or is the decision up to governments?

A person is refugee whether or not a legal eligi-

bility procedure has already recognised that status. Governments set up status determination procedures, for the purposes of determining that person's legal standing and/or rights and benefits, in accordance with their own legal system. UNHCR offers its advice as part of the agency's mandate to promote refugee law, protect refugees, and supervise the implementation of the 1951 Convention. UNHCR advocates that governments adopt a rapid, flexible and liberal process, recognising how difficult it often is to document persecution.

## Must every refugee undergo individual status determination?

Normally speaking, people who apply for formal refugee status need to establish that their fear of persecution is indeed well founded. However, there have been many cases of sudden, mass exodus resulting from campaigns of ethnic cleansing or other attacks on entire groups. The need to provide assistance is often extremely urgent and, for purely practical reasons, it may not be possible to carry out individual status determinations. Particularly when it appears that all members of a group are fleeing for similar reasons, it may be appropriate to declare group determination of refugee status, whereby each member of the group is regarded as a refugee, prima facie, in other words, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

## How does UNHCR distinguish between a refugee and an economic migrant?

A migrant normally leaves his or her country voluntarily, to seek a better



International protection and assistance to refugees fleeing war, famine or persecution

life. To a refugee, the economic conditions of the country of asylum are less important than his/her safety. In practice the distinction may sometimes be difficult to establish, but it is fundamental nonetheless: a migrant enjoys the protection of his or her home government; a refugee does not.

## May governments deport persons who are found not to be refugees?

Persons who have been determined, under an equitable procedure, not to be in need of international protection are in a situation similar to that of illegal aliens, and may be deported. However, UNHCR strongly advocates that every rejected asylum seeker be granted the rights to a review of the rejection before being deported.

## Can a criminal be a refugee?

A criminal who has received a fair trial for a commonlaw offence and who flees his country to escape jail is not a refugee.

## Can a soldier be a refugee?

A refugee is a civilian. A person who continues to pursue armed action against his or her country of origin or from the country of asylum cannot be considered a refugee.

## What does UNHCR do to protect refugees from physical assault?

Deprived of the protection of their state, detached from their families and communities of origin, refugees are often vulnerable to violence. Refugee women and their children are extremely vulnerable, as are the elderly. Rape, in particular, is a horrifyingly common element in the pattern of persecution, terror or ethnic cleansing that drives refugee families from their homes, as civilians increasingly become the targets — rather than the accidental victims — of sectarian warfare. From Myanmar to Somalia and Bosnia, refugee families frequently

cite rape or the fear of rape as a key factor in their decision to leave. Refugees may also be sexually assaulted during their flight and on arrival in their country of asylum, by officials, locals, or other refugees.

UNHCR staff members have a duty to respond to physical assaults on refugees by attempting to correct conditions that may be conducive to such assaults, offering victims the best possible available care; and ensuring the proper legal follow-up.

## What does UNHCR do to help unaccompanied child refugees find their families?

For UNHCR's purposes, an unaccompanied minor is "one who is separated from both parents and for whose care no person can be found who by law or custom has primary responsibility." The number of unaccompanied child refugees varies widely with the causes and conditions of exodus. However, as a rule of thumb, scholars have estimated that

## Camp Sadako Programme

JORDAN IS the first Middle Eastern country to participate in the Camp Sadako Programme. Established in 1993 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Camp Sadako Programme aims to promote awareness of the plight of refugees and challenge stereotypes by according a number of young people the opportunity to have concrete, first-hand experience of refugee camps.

The camp also seeks to expand awareness on refugee issues and on the work of UNHCR through articles in the local and regional press about the experiences of volunteers, and through information sessions and exhibitions that participants in the programme are expected to hold upon return to their home countries.

Since its inception, over 100 volunteers from 22 countries have participated in the programme, and 12 "Camp Sadakos" have been organised in five countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico and Nepal).

Although UNHCR has no refugee camps in Jordan, arrangements were made in June 1996 to send two Jordanian volunteers to Camp Sadako Programme in Kenya, in accordance with UNHCR's local capacity building initiative. Jordan's participation in this highly acclaimed programme is an indication of Jordan's unflinching support of refugee causes and its unswerving commitment to refugee programmes.

Participants in the programme are required to conduct surveys on specific aspects of the refugee camp and on the work of UNHCR and its implementing partners through the collection and analysis of quantitative data. A wide range of issues can be covered, such as distribution of food and non-food items, protection, registration, educational needs and facilities, health, nutrition and sanitation, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, internal camp dynamics, environment and agriculture, and women's cooperatives.

Participants may also carry out international protection tasks such as registration, voluntary repatriation and resettlement interviews, and distribution of supplies in an emergency situation.

unaccompanied children comprise 2 to 5 per cent of a refugee population. In the case of Jordan, unaccompanied child refugees are accorded precedence interviews and arrangements for family reunions are undertaken on priority basis.

## What is UNHCR's policy on resettlement?

Resettlement in a third country may be the only way to guarantee international protection of a

refugee who is being denied adequate protection in the country of asylum and who cannot repatriate.

## Do refugees have a right to request resettlement in a rich country?

Refugees have a right to be protected, but this is not location specific. In the interests of family reunification, however, refugees may request resettlement in countries where their close family members are living.

## United Nations Population Fund



UNFPA BEGAN operations in 1969 as the largest multilateral source of population assistance. The Fund helps promote awareness of population problems in both developed and developing countries and provides assistance for strategies best suited to deal with those problems. UNFPA believes that all women and men have the right to reproductive health, and that addressing population issues is essential for the achievement of balanced and sustainable development.

In an attempt to pursue a holistic approach in addressing population needs, and to facilitate improved coordination with other U.N. partners, bilateral donors and NGOs, the UNFPA chose to concentrate its funding on three main areas: to help ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, to

all couples and individuals on or before the year 2015; to support population and development strategies that enable capacity-building in population programming; and to promote awareness of population and development issues and advocate for the mobilisation of the necessary resources and political will to accomplish the objectives of these three areas.

UNFPA promotes and is guided by the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It affirms its commitment to reproductive health, gender equity and equality, male responsibility and the autonomy and empowerment of women everywhere. UNFPA

believes that safeguarding and promoting these rights and the well-being of children, especially girl children, are development goals in themselves. All couples and individuals have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children as well as the right to the information and means to do so.

UNFPA believes that meeting these goals will contribute to improving quality of life and stabilising world population. UNFPA, as the leading United Nations organisation for the follow-up and implementation of the programme of action for the ICPD, is fully committed to working in partnership with governments, non-governmental organisations, U.N. agencies and international organisations.

UNFPA SUPPORT to the country over the past 21 years has been instrumental in promoting national self-reliance for the solution of population problems. In line with national objectives and priorities, UNFPA currently supports 14 projects covering reproductive health including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy. UNFPA assistance contributed to the formulation of a comprehensive National Population Strategy; strengthening the process of integrating population factors into various planning activities; implementation of the 1994 Population and Housing Census and the accompanying sample survey; institutionalisation of population information, education and communication (IEC) concepts and activities with the media,

Ministry of Education, National Population Commission, and all NGOs involved in the implementation of the programme. In addition, UNFPA has been supporting the Ministry of Health in upgrading and strengthening reproductive and family planning services provided by its centres.

UNFPA-funded projects are implemented by concerned government institutions and leading national NGOs such as Queen Alia Fund, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Jordanian Association for Family Planning and Protection, and the Arab Women Organisation.

Following are major highlights of some UNFPA supported projects:

**Population Programmes for the Grassroots:** A project implemented by Noor Al Hussein Foundation. It provides a good example about the IEC activities launched in support of population, reproductive health and family planning and gender issues. A series of intensive motivational campaigns, geared at all age categories in 13 designated villages, have been launched. The campaigns, which adopted the slogan "family health is a joint responsibility of both spouses" include a wide range of activities: puppet shows, mobile science exhibition, sensitisation seminars, counselling and educational theatre interactive scenes.

**Support to the National Committee for Women:** A project implemented by Queen Alia Fund, contributes to strengthening the administrative and technical capabilities of the National Committee for Women (NCW) and the Coordination Office, established in support of the Fourth World

Conference on Women in Beijing. Intensive IEC activities took place in 1995 in relation to the Beijing conference. A five-day workshop for 27 focal point NGOs was also conducted in September 1995 addressing all substantive issues pertaining to the conference. In addition five workshops were conducted in all governorates during December 1995. The workshops dealt with the domains of the Beijing Platform of action including reproductive health and family planning, the girl child, human rights, education particularly for girls and the impact of poverty on women. Other achievements of the project include organisation of two seminars on Women Policies/Legislation in Jordan and the Role of Women in Economic Development; launching of intensive national awareness campaigns and organisation of Training of Trainers workshop for community social workers. A number of motivational sessions for grassroots workers are being conducted.

**Population and Environment Awareness for Poor Families and Youth:** A project implemented by the Arab Women Organisation (AWO). Two reproductive health/family planning (RH/FP) clinics were established under this project in Wadi Abdoun and Azzuhur areas to meet the need of the local communities. Summer youth camps for 350-400 students from schools and

universities were organised to address the needs of this target group. The camps' IEC activities addressed various issues related to population, natural resources and environment inter-linkages as well as reproductive health, maternal and child health and sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS). Around 30,000 cloth bags, in replacement of plastic bags, were produced by needy women who are benefiting from the profits gained from the sale of these bags. A baseline needs assessment survey was conducted in the six designated areas of the project. The purpose of such survey was to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of RH/FP of the target groups and the major environmental issues faced by them. Based on the findings of this survey, intensive IEC activities have taken place on RH/FP and pressing population and environment issues by well trained supervisors and motivators from these communities.

Um Mohammad, one of the project's motivators speaks of her own experience in this project. Um Mohammad is the ex-headmistress of an elementary school in the little village of Tawal Janoubi in the Jordan Valley. She is also a member of the town council of Deir Alla, the capital of Mid Ghor in the Valley. She was looked upon with respect by everyone in the surrounding villages.

But when she joined the Arab Women Organisation to advocate birth spacing,

word got around that she was inciting women against their husbands and that her teachings were contrary to God's will. Um Mohammad was disappointed at the beginning when none of the women turned up at the motivational sessions she had planned in homes, schools and the town council. But she was not dissuaded.

"I refused to give in to the misconceptions of both men and women in my village because their ignorance means that my village, as well as the surrounding ones, will remain poor forever," says Um Mohammad. "All I want is for people to listen to me and then make their own decisions."

She decided to turn to her relatives and close friends who had elected her to the town council and who would welcome her in their homes. She appointed 10 of these women as "promoters" who began going from house to house talking to housewives and answering their questions. Women, especially younger ones, were embarrassed to talk about contraceptives. Soon, however, they began coming to the health centres where they talked freely about their reproductive role and experiences.

Today, Um Mohammad is more popular than ever. "A few days ago, a 24-year-old man came to see me at the health centre and asked me to talk his mother out of becoming pregnant again," she said. His family was struggling to improve its living conditions and was too poor to feed another mouth.

"I do not want my daughters to suffer the way I did," says Um Mohammad. "No one believes I am only 42 years old. Delivering many children has made me extremely unhealthy."



children express their interpretation of the UNFPA/NHF campaign slogan "family health is a joint responsibility of both spouses"

## Country Support Team for Arab States and Europe

UNFPA established Country Support Team (CST) for Arab States and Europe in Amman in 1992 to offer technical support to population issues through a multi-disciplinary approach. The CST office is staffed by 18 experts who provide technical assistance in UNFPA's three core programme areas: reproductive health including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy.





## What is United Nations peace-keeping?

PEACE-KEEPING is one of the ways in which the United Nations helps to maintain inter-national peace and security. In the U.N. context, peace-keeping has traditionally been defined as the use of multinational forces, under U.N. command, to help control and resolve conflict between hostile countries or between hostile communities within a single country. Peace-keepers have come to be known as "blue helmets" or "blue berets" because of the distinctive headgear they wear.

Peace-keeping has saved countless lives. In many cases, it has proved invaluable in creating the necessary conditions to settle disputes peacefully through negotiation and in monitoring the implementation of agreements between hostile parties. This service to the cause of peace — by more than 650,000 soldiers and civilians since 1948 — was formally recognised when, in 1988, U.N. peace-keeping forces were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. As the tensions of the cold war recede, the international community is turning increasingly to U.N. peace-keepers to help solve regional crises. Since 1991 alone, there have been sixteen new operations.

### What do peace-keepers do?

Contingents can be dispatched as unarmed observers or a lightly armed peace-keeping force. They might be assigned to observe a situation and report to the secretary-general, to supervise troop withdrawals, or to help ensure compliance with other agreements. They might investigate ceasefire violations, patrol buffer zones or monitor the maintenance of law and order. In addition, they often provide emergency medical services, assist in the resettlement of refugees, and work to restore normal civilian activities in strife-torn areas.

Peace-keepers are taking on new tasks that often go far beyond traditional activities. They may be required to enforce embargoes, remove mines and seek to disarm warring parties. In addition to military-related aspects, many U.N. operations now involve a large civilian dimension: election monitoring, human rights verification, humanitarian relief, administrative management, institution-building and the restoration of infrastructure.



Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (centre) visiting with young residents of a U.N.-supported orphanage (Somalia 1993)

ture and services.

### How are peace-keeping operations set up?

The main responsibility for peace-keeping lies with the Security Council. When a U.N. member state or group of states, or the secretary-general, proposes the establishment of a peace-keeping operation, three basic conditions have to be met. First, peace-keeping operations are generally established with the consent of the country or countries involved. Second, the proposal must enjoy broad support from the international community — specifically, it must attract the necessary votes to be adopted by the Security Council. Third, member countries should be ready to contribute troops and money towards the peace-keeping operation.

### Who leads U.N. peace-keeping forces?

The secretary-general is responsible to the Security Council (which normally establishes such an operation) for the organisation, conduct and direction of a force. In the field, the force commander has full authority and reports to the secretary-general. The contingents making up the force are answerable to the force commander. Although they remain in their national service during their term as U.N. peace-keepers, the soldiers serve under the authority of the U.N. and take their instructions from the U.N., not from their national governments.

### What contributes to the success of peace-keeping?

The U.N. has an impartial role. The parties must have confidence in the U.N.'s impartiality. The success of an operation requires not only the parties' consent but also their full cooperation, especially regarding freedom of movement and the facilities necessary to carry out the mandate. Peace-keeping cannot become a substitute for peace-making.

The blue helmets are stationed in an area as a holding operation not as a solution to the dispute. To resolve the underlying causes of the conflict, the parties must negotiate seriously and in good faith.

### How are peace-keeping operations financed?



Blue helmet worn by United Nations peace-keeping personnel

### operations financed?

When the Security Council votes to create a peace-keeping operation, the council also decides how that operation will be financed. Usually, this is done on an obligatory basis: countries are required to pay for the cost of peace-keeping operations and the General Assembly decides how these costs are divided among members. In a few instances in the past, peace-keeping operations have been financed by voluntary contributions.

Generally, however, peace-keeping operations are financed under an obligatory scale of assessments which takes into account the relative economic wealth of member states, with the permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) required to pay a larger share because of their special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The developing and least developed countries pay a little less than the percentage they are assessed for the U.N.'s regular budget.

### Who serve in peace-keeping operations and how are they hired and paid?

At the beginning of 1992, 11,500 men and women were serving in U.N. peace-keeping operations. As of December 1994, more than 80,000 people were engaged in 17 peace-keeping operations worldwide. In addition to the traditional core group of

military personnel, there are also civilian police monitors and civilian support staff. The military and police contingents are contributed by governments, which might also send civilians to serve, for example, as election monitors, staff member from the U.N. Secretariat and locally recruited employees constitute the bulk of civilian employees.

Occasionally, volunteers may be recruited through the U.N. volunteers to serve in civilian functions with peace-keeping operation for a specified period, the standard tour of duty being six months. They continue to be paid by their governments, based on the ranks and salaries that prevail in their national armed forces.

When can peace-keepers use force? Is there a general code of conduct that applies in a peace-keeping operation?

U.N. observers normally carry no arms at all. U.N. troops carry light arms and are allowed to use them only in self-defence, or if armed persons try to stop them from carrying out the orders of their commanders. They use force only in exceptional circumstances and with due regard for the impact of their actions on the overall operation.

### How many peace-keepers have been killed since peace-keeping operations were created?

In the view of the U.N., one death is one death too many. As of December 1994, more than 1,000 peace-keepers have lost their lives while serving with a U.N. peace-keeping operation.

## How business benefits from the U.N.

THE BUSINESS community benefits greatly from its relationship with the United Nations. It could benefit even more. Here are six reasons why:

### The U.N. is working to create a more peaceful world

The U.N.'s efforts to avoid violence and war, to promote democracy and human rights and to eradicate diseases and illiteracy all contribute to make the world freer and safer. This encourages the opening of new markets while reducing risks for global business.

### The U.N. is a multi-billion-dollar business client

The U.N. is a major source of business for companies worldwide. In 1994, it spent \$3.8 billion on goods and services to support worldwide activities, ranging from peace-keeping and humanitarian assistance to economic development and health. Vast opportunities exist for companies with the right products and competitive skills. To date, the United States has far and away the largest share of this market, with American companies winning a 19.5 per cent share in 1994, or \$737 million, according to the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

### The U.N. sets standards for business and commerce

The U.N. has defined internationally adopted technical standards and norms that are cornerstones of the global economy's technical infrastructure. These include unified measurements for statistics; trade laws; and standards for postal services, telecommunications, maritime transport and intellectual property. They facilitate economic transactions across all sectors of the economy.

### The U.N. is working to expand worldwide trade

The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) advocates the benefits of a multilateral trading system and thereby helps to extend it to developing countries. Working

closely with the World Trade Organisation, UNCTAD serves as a unique forum to analyse and prepare consensus agreements on global trade, investment and development issues. This work helps to prepare the ground for future negotiations and rule-making under the WTO. UNCTAD is a place where business can make its voice heard and engage in dialogue with policymakers from all countries, including the developing world.

### The U.N. creates awareness about business opportunities

The U.N. is a leading source of economic and social statistics. It creates awareness about global trends in such areas as foreign direct investment, using channels such as UNCTAD's "World Investment Report". This helps policymakers, especially in developing countries, to identify opportunities and to separate mere politics from sound economic policies.

### The U.N. works to promote trade and investment

UNCTAD regularly organises investment roundtables in developing countries, as well as in China and the central Asian economies. The U.N.'s work in advancing market-oriented reforms, acting as a catalyst for business transactions and helping governments to establish business-friendly legislation, is estimated to have pumped some \$25 billion of direct foreign investment into developing countries and economies in transition.

### UNCTAD's work in brief

Recent examples of UNCTAD's work in bringing government and business together include a workshop on infrastructure development in Beijing and conferences on privatisation in Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. In cooperation with private accounting firms, the U.N. is helping Russia and other countries with economies in transition to modernise their accounting standards. UNCTAD is working with U.S. business

to identify and commercialise Russian science and technology products. The U.N. was the first multilateral forum where the U.S. private sector met government officials from Central and Eastern Europe (1992).

The U.N. is spearheading the application of information and telecommunication in trade transactions, thereby helping to cut through red-tape. UNCTAD's Global Trade Point Network, launched in Columbus, Ohio, in 1994, is now fully operational in over sixty countries.

Creating business-friendly legislation, promoting enterprise development, trade and investment, have become mainstream activities. However, many business executives still perceive the U.N. as rooted in the cold war years of the 1970s and 1980s, when it was the scene of debates on the merits of state control versus free markets. Such ambivalence no longer holds in the U.N. today. It is fully committed to an open, global economy.

Recognising that the U.N. has changed and that business already benefits considerably from the U.N. is a first step. But more needs to be done. The U.N. needs the business community to tackle the biggest challenge the international community is facing today: integrating the developing world into the emerging global economy. Private sector firms, both large and small, play a key role in creating and spreading opportunities for growth and development. They are particularly well-equipped to seize and multiply the benefits of the globalisation of production and the liberalisation of trade.

The UNCTAD secretary-general, Rubens Ricupero, has said, "by and large multilateral institutions, have failed to give adequate room to the business community to express itself and to make their weight felt." The ninth conference of UNCTAD (South Africa, 27 April - 11 May) is addressing this. Among the proposals on the agenda is creation of a "Development Senate," a body that would allow business representatives to participate directly in the work of the U.N.

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## Protecting the global environment

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION knows no national boundaries. Sulphur emissions in one country cause acid rain in another downwind. Depletion of the ozone layer from CFCs used in one nation can lead to skin cancer on the other side of the world.

In an increasingly inter-dependent world, the United Nations has a crucial role to play in protecting the global environment and promoting sustainable development. The facts below show some of the U.N.'s main achievements in this area over the past twenty-five years — achievements that need to be continued and expanded. For the sake of our planet, we urge you to support the U.N. and its work.

### Earth Summit

At the Earth Summit — the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 — government leaders adopted Agenda 21, a global plan for sustainable development. It has since become the basis for many national plans, and thousands of cities and towns worldwide have created their own "local Agenda 21". The U.N. Commission on

Sustainable Development meets annually to review progress and propose policy guidelines for governments and others implementing the agreement.

### Climate change

Under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, opened for signing at the 1992 Earth Summit and now ratified by 155 nations, industrialised countries are committed to reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Although few countries are on target to meet that goal, in 1995 the member countries decided to strengthen the agreement.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), coordinated by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organisation (a U.N. agency), issued its second assessment report in December 1995, finding "discernible human influence on the global climate". Based on the work of 2,000 leading scientists from 130 countries, the IPCC, set up in 1988, reviews scientific research on climate change.

### Ozone depletion

Industrialized countries are committed to banning production of CFCs as of the beginning of 1996 under the amended 1987 Montreal Protocol, negotiated and administered by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Developing countries have a 10-year grace period to comply.

### Acid rain

Acid rain in Europe and North America has been significantly reduced under the landmark 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, administered by the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

### Hazardous wastes and chemicals

To regulate the 3 million tonnes of toxic waste that crosses national borders each year, in 1989 countries negotiated the Basel Convention on hazardous wastes, administered by UNEP and now ratified by 100 countries. In 1995 the treaty was strengthened to outlaw the export of toxic waste to devel-

oping countries, which usually do not have the technology for safe disposal.

### Biological diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity, signed at the 1992 Earth Summit and since ratified by 140 nations, obligates countries to protect their plant and animal species through habitat preservation and other means. The convention is administered by UNEP.

In 1995, UNEP launched the Global Biodiversity Assessment, the most comprehensive ever attempted. Based on the work of 1,500 scientists worldwide, the report found that the rate of species extinction and habitat loss, largely due to human activities, was unprecedented.

Protection of endangered species is also enforced under CITES — the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species — administered by UNEP. Countries meet periodically to update the list of which plant and animal species or products, such as ivory, should be protected by quotas or

outright bans.

### Fish and marine resources

Global monitoring of fish stocks is carried out by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which estimates that 70 per cent of commercial fishing grounds are depleted or recovering from overfishing.

A new UN legal agreement to regulate fishing on the high seas was negotiated as an outgrowth of the Earth Summit, and opened for signing in December 1995. The agreement aims to prevent overfishing and ease international tensions over competition for dwindling fish stocks.

### Marine pollution

Oil pollution from ships has been cut by 60 per cent since 1981, after the adoption of a legal convention negotiated by the International Maritime Organisation, a U.N. agency. The treaty, which now applies to more than 85 per cent of the world's merchant fleet, also sets strict controls for disposal of garbage by ships.

Governments have called for a legal agreement to regulate persistent organic pollutants, such as DDT, PCBs and dioxin, as part of a wide-ranging action plan adopted at a 1995 UNEP-sponsored conference in Washington, DC on land-based sources of marine pollution.

### Global monitoring

The Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS), run jointly by several U.N. bodies, plays a key role in linking hundreds of national and international organisations which monitor changes in the atmosphere and climate, water pollution, deforestation, global ice cover and other indicators of environmental health.

### Forests

To combat deforestation globally, FAO monitors forest loss and trade in timber, and assists developing countries in managing forests. Some 15.4 million hectares of forest worldwide — an area the size of Peru and Ecuador combined — were lost during the 1980s, a rate that continues today.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests was set up by the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995 to assess the need for a legal agreement on forests, and to consider global policies on eco-labelling of wood products and other issues.

### Desertification

The U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification, negotiated as an outgrowth of the Earth Summit, was adopted in 1994. Desertification, or the degradation of arid and semi-arid lands, is a problem that affects the livelihood and food supply of over 900 million people worldwide, especially in Africa.

### Financing for the Environment

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), jointly run by the World Bank, the U.N. Development Programme and UNEP — has become the main source of multilateral lending to developing countries for environmental projects. In 1994, the GEF was replenished by donor countries with over \$2 billion.



to identify and commercialise Russian science and technology products. The U.N. was the first multinational forum where the U.S. private sector met government officials from Central and Eastern Europe (1992).

The U.N. is coordinating the application of information and telecommunications technologies in trade, education, health, agriculture, industry, and the environment. The U.N. is also coordinating the application of information and telecommunications technologies in the field of human resources development.

Creating a new intellectual property regime for the 21st century is a major challenge. The U.N. is working to create a new intellectual property regime that will be fair and equitable for all countries. The U.N. is also working to create a new intellectual property regime that will be based on the principles of transparency, predictability, and non-discrimination.

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RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

A return to the past to capture the present — ‘Universe with Man in Mind’  
The existentialist search for man’s origin and purpose continues with the multi-media works of Rama Jamoukha

By Mahmoud I. Mufli

“MAN HAS pondered his origins for thousands of years, but until recently, his only source of ideas consisted of notions drawn from religious teachings and various philosophical systems. Not until modern times, and the arrival of data of a different kind, has he been able to approach the problem of his origins from a new angle. We live in a time where reason and the conquests of science claim to provide logical answers to all the great questions asked by the human intellect.” Maurice Boucaille, 1982 (author of What is the Origin of Man? The Answers of Science and the Holy Scriptures).

The mysteries of the Universe, Man and his inter-relationships are far from resolved; barely the tip has been scratched. The subject has confounded Man from the earliest of times, and was first seriously tackled by the Pre-Socratic philosophers, as they attempted to place some sort of identity on the so-called “Indefinable Determinate,” with some of them citing water, fire, wind and even in the case of Pythagoras “numbers” (arithmetical numbers).

Countless thinkers, philosophers, scientists and artists have mulled over similar questions over the years. Louis Pasteur remarked: “I see everywhere in the world the inevitable expression of the concept of infinity. The ideals of art, of science, are lighted by reflection from the infinite.”

The exhibited multi-media works of Jordanian artist Rama Jamoukha also evoke and pose questions that are “hitherto unanswered.” The artist does not ponder the origins of Man, for she knows that he is God’s creation. However, she does mull over the purpose of Man and the concept of an impending relationship between the past, the present and the future.

oil (on brown paper) and sculptures of faces and inscription tablets rendered in a specially-treated, naturally-occurring substance that the artist does not wish to disclose, for the process involves a technique that she has innovated and perfected herself, and considers a “secret of the trade,” so to speak.

Going round the exhibit, the artist does disclose, however, that the black and white series is the mainstay of her work, revealing that even though she does point in colour to satisfy the conditions and sentiments of certain transient periods, she nevertheless always finds herself reverting to the former. “I consider the aesthetics of black and white more powerful in generating the atmosphere of infinity that I strive to instill in my work,” she says.

viewer — stands a chance of truly contemplating the meaning of the work and the sense of inquiry inherent therein. Anything short of such a disposition would be tantamount to a cursory glance, or at best, a thoughtful but necessarily transient gaze.

“At the same time, I do not impose my own outlook on the viewer; even though it represents something very specific to me, it is nonetheless abstract and free enough to steer clear from one of the classic pitfalls of the visual arts: pre-

complete until I have dabbed my hands in the paint and effected some tangible difference in the painting. When I do that, I feel as if I have left a trace of my own being in the work. To me, any other method would leave me feeling that the artwork is ‘detached’ from the human element that is central to the theme I wish to evoke and express. Consequently, I never walk away from a painting session ‘clean’; my hands are always soiled with paints.”

Though the artist refuses

and the moon, but she later absorbed Artemis’ identification with both Selene (Luna) and Hecate (or Trivia), a chthonic (infernal) deity.”

With the passage of time, folkloric tradition established a parallel and complementary track with pagan religious tradition, thereby contributing to the consolidation of Diana’s affiliation with the moon. This phenomenon even split over and beyond Roman dominions to the deep hinterland of Africa, where some pagan tribes were observed to pay special homage to a mythical goddess of the moon, Dila — presumably a linguistic variant of the Roman Diana.

Some of the black and white paintings bear red “X” shapes, purposely implanted in a particular location of the artistic map-page to capture the viewer’s attention. This, alleges the artist, is intended to augment the sense of balance and harmony that the particular work requires. This is probably too fine and slippery a point to stick in everybody’s “persuasion net”, though the artist makes assurances that there is in fact no contradiction between it and the non-prescriptive aspect that is impregnated in each of the works. “Sometimes, the particular genre of harmony required in a particular work is the ‘shock type,’ hence the seemingly inexplicable inclusion of the blatant X’s,” explains the artist.

Producing art, in Ms. Jamoukha’s book, entails the embarkation on a quest to either discover something new or to attempt addressing some tributary of the vast ocean of the existentialist realm. Something has to be “itching” inside her — intellectually or spiritually — in order to garner the necessary will and inspiration to render a visual form of her inquiry. She believes that a mind free of inquiry and curiosity; a mind complacently resigned to the matter-of-fact comforts and mundane routine of the 20th century, will be very hard-pressed to produce anything of worth in any realm: aesthetic, intellectual, etc. She points out that there was a far greater incidence of people with a 6th-sense in bygone centuries and millennia, than there are now. Rather, far more people with an active version of the same telepathic sense that people possess today (albeit, in a dormant or near-dormant state). It is possible, she asserts, that one can rekindle that sense again, partly by disciplining



Artist Rama Jamoukha in front of one of her works

**‘I consider the aesthetics of black and white more powerful in generating the atmosphere of infinity that I strive to instill in my work’**

scriptivity of perception,” adds the artist, expounding that “there is enough freedom there, in the painted forms, for anyone to construct their own imagery in accordance with their initial perceptions. From my own vantage point, however, the images I have put together attempt to probe Man’s existence and its meaning. This is why I always focus on people. To some, discovering our planetary habitat may involve physical travelling to, and exploration of parts of our globe. To others yet, meditation may be the ‘vessel of discovery.’ To me, however, it is the reversion back to the inner-core, or the inner-self of Man, that constitutes the discovery process. In this way, and by such means, I come closer to connecting with the inner truth, the meaning of life and The Divine.”

The artist has passed through several artistic styles — photo-realism, classical portraiture, impressionism and others

to title her works — an aspect that would undoubtedly influence the viewer and limit the freedom of his/her perception — she nonetheless uses recurring symbols in discrete and indiscrete ways. For instance, her use of the circle alludes, by her own confession, to the moon, to the future (which is cyclically linked to the present and the past) and to femininity and fertility. This feature is witnessed in several of her works. Symbolism is the key here. The artist, who claims to be in touch with an additional ‘sense’ beyond the traditional ‘five senses’ — and which is found in all of us, but dormant and unacknowledged — explains that she is able to detect tangible effects of the moon on most women she meets; more so than in men. “Women actually undergo temperamental and psychological changes in relation to the various stages and phases of the moon; there is a distinct link, affecting women at times that are specific to them.”

This assertion seems hardly surprising, even in our age, since the sense of allure and novelty generated by the moon is documented in ancient mythology. In Roman civilisation, a special pagan deity was conceived, Diana (virtually indistinguishable from the Greek goddess, Artemis), to conceptualise the special relationship between femininity, fertility and the moon. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, she (Diana) was “invoked by women to aid conception and delivery. Though perhaps originally an indigenous woodland goddess, Diana early became identified with Artemis. There was probably no original connection between Diana

**A sense of mystery, extra-terrestrial intrigue and cosmic saga abounds in Jamoukha’s black and white works**

ceived of them and got started on them in 1990) — have sought to probe into “other worlds.” Our own world is, for the moment, shuttled into the mind’s periphery, and “other worlds” come onto the centre-stage of the conscious psyche. And because the subject of extra-planetary matters is an intense and possibly eerie one, the artist does not wish to scatter her own concentration, or that of the viewer, by introducing the “much-too-rich” dimension of colour. It is only then that the perceiver — whether conceiver or

— before settling at this current one of abstract expressionism. Within each school, the artist innovates her own style, through which she feels a sense of re-birth. This feeling is borne out of the euphoria at having presented to the world of art something totally new and different; a feeling that is accentuated by getting directly involved in the work: “The brush and other mechanical utensils used for the application of paints on paper or canvass can only accomplish some aspects of the final product; I don’t consider my work

oneself to take the necessary time and concentration to reach deep inside oneself and establish a mental frequency with oneself. The artist cites a primitive island-civilisation who, through their active “additional senses,” were able to generate something close to a “collective consciousness” and “collective will” through which they were able to entice shoals of dolphins to gather to their shores. Dolphins are known to be only second to human beings in intelligence and emotions, even having mourning ceremonies for their dead.

Across the gallery’s hall are two large brown paper sheets, decorated in mysterious oil-patterns of brownish-black, or blackish-brown. They bear no relation to actual totem symbols of long-gone civilisations, says the artist, but are the product of spontaneous feelings inspired by the past. The crucial aspect to bear in mind here is the artist’s conviction that anything that occurred in the past is forever recorded by the cosmos, in a manner

consistent with the laws of energy. Anything that was ever uttered — sounds and noises of all sorts — are forms of energy.

Physics has already established that energy is neither created nor destroyed. So no matter how elusive the sound waves emanating from the dying Julius Caesar as he uttered “Et tu, Brute?,” or by Abraham Lincoln as he read out his epic Gettysburg Address, they (the sound waves) are still somewhere out there in outer space, awaiting some organic or electronic radar to detect and retrieve them. “Matter is congealed energy. The amount of potential energy in a cubic centimetre of so-called empty space, the vacuum, is immensely greater than the entire energy content of the visible universe,” hypothesises Glen Schaefer, director of Ecological Physics at Cranfield Institute of Technology, in his publication, “Universe with Man in Mind: The New Paradigm,” (1982).

Seemingly backed by some schools of scientific thought, this exhibit’s artist, Ms. Jamoukha — who has

widely read works by English writer on philosophy and sociology, Colin Henry Wilson (b. 1931) — discloses that the symbols she uses are inspired by the actual past that, to some extent, she is able to pick up certain vibes from. For instance, she is able to achieve a sense of the people who once inhabited now-old-houses (an experience that new houses cannot evoke in her, because — since they have not been inhabited — their walls and other physical structures have not absorbed and stored any emanatory sound or other energy). Visiting this exhibit may not necessarily impart a feeling of the metaphysical to the viewer, as such, but it is certainly most intriguing and thought-provoking that the artist who produced the artwork contained therein, did so very much with Universe with Man in Mind.

The exhibition is held at the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association, Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Nadim Al Mallah St. (Tel:623297), and closes on Oct. 31.

Iraq’s ambassador of song lifts sanctions blues



Kazem Al Sahir, Iraq’s best-loved performer, sings to an audience in Alexander the Great’s amphitheatre in the ancient city of Babylon as thousands of Iraqis squeeze onto the steep stone steps to watch (Reuters photo)

By Dominic Evans  
Reuters

BABYLON, Iraq — In Alexander the Great’s amphitheatre in the ancient city of Babylon, thousands of Iraqis squeeze onto the steep stone steps.

Many have waited hours. Some paid ticket touts 4,000 dinars (\$2.60) — half a state worker’s monthly wage — to get in.

All of them sit impatiently under the stars, waiting. Then a white-suited figure struts into the spotlight. The theatre erupts in a thunder of applause.

Kazem Al Sahir, Iraq’s best-loved performer and “ambassador of song,” launches into his repertoire, and for two and half hours a few thousand Iraqis leave their troubles behind.

“Your whole body is beautiful,” Kazem croons. “Wash me in hail,” he sighs. “Who made you so hard-hearted?” Men and women are on their feet dancing, singing and clapping.

Some wave huge Iraqi flags in the evening breeze, lending the amphitheatre an

atmosphere half-way between football stadium and concert hall.

“You deserve it, you deserve it,” they chant when the youthful looking singer accepts a gift of a traditional Arab lute, or oud, from the concert organisers.

Women shout his name and squeal when he approaches the front of the stage.

“Kazem is the best. Everybody loves him,” says Ibrahim Qusay, a student from Mansour University who made the 80-kilometre trip from Baghdad for the night’s performance.

For Iraqis, Kazem’s concert is the highlight of the two-week Babylon Festival, annual showpiece of President Saddam Hussein’s defiance of Baghdad’s international isolation since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Performers came to this year’s Babylon Festival from more than 20 countries, including Chinese acrobats, a dance troupe from India, a Neapolitan theatre company and folk dancers from Tajikistan.

The political message is clear.

“Lift the inhuman sanctions imposed on Iraq. That is the call of all those who took part in the Babylon Festival,” Thani Suedi, a poet from the Gulf state of the United Arab Emirates, told the closing session earlier this month.

Babylon itself is a symbol of Iraq’s defiance of stringent United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq six years ago.

Many of its ancient monuments have been rebuilt during the sanction years, including Kazem’s concert venue, the amphitheatre of Macedonian warrior king Alexander the Great who died in Babylon in 323 B.C.

Just down the road stands a gateway of blue and gold glazed brick, a scaled-down copy of the great gate of Nebuchadnezzar, built 2,500 years ago and home to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Through the gateway crowds flock to a performance by Iraqi oud player

Majed Abdul Razzaq in Nebuchadnezzar’s rebuilt throne room.

Saddam, copying Nebuchadnezzar’s trait of self-promotion, had his name stamped on the bricks used for Babylon’s reconstruction.

“From Nebuchadnezzar to Saddam Hussein, Babylon invokes its glories on the path of jihad and glorious development,” the festival programme declares.

But for many Iraqis, whose living standard tumbled after international sanctions from petrodollar affluence to poverty, political defiance of the sanctions takes second place to the rare opportunity for some fun.

“Kazem, Kazem,” roars the crowd in the amphitheatre.

“We lost so much from the sanctions. This is our chance to enjoy ourselves,” says Sawsan, an engineer at Iraq’s state television, swaying to the irresistible rhythms of Kazem’s music. “For a few minutes, we can forget everything else.”





Medical patients, athletes and even filmmakers are to benefit from a rubber suit (above) that measures human motion electronically

## Electronic suit that can tailor medical treatment

THE NEOPRENE modular suit, called Data-wear, is studded with up to 200 sensors that monitor joint and muscle movement. The information obtained by each sensor goes to a remote computer that assesses the actual condition of the patient.

The highly accurate system, designed by Frank Edwards of TCAS Effects Limited, Wales, can detect the exact muscle affected, thus enabling a treatment regime to be devised for the patient. The suit can be worn whenever the need arises

to check the healing progress of the patient's injury.

The computer represents the information received as plots on a graph or as a 3D image which has the advantage of enabling doctors and physiotherapists to see in real time how the joint is performing from any viewing angle.

The graph shows how each part of the body is performing in motion. This is an invaluable aid for athletes, such as high-jumpers, who will be able to improve their technique — for example,

learning how much weight they are placing on one ankle at take-off.

And hip-replacement patients can determine how well their new joint is working. The system can also be adapted to helping lame race-horses.

The animation industry has not been neglected. Recently, the suit successfully tested software linked to 3D Studio (the industry's leading computer package) enabling an experienced animator to generate 20 seconds of character movement automatically from collected data in just five

minutes — traditional techniques would have taken over an hour.

Stage directors can have more than one performer monitored simultaneously, interacting while recording the data in the same data stream, ensuring perfect synchronisation. The quality of detailed data frees the computer, allowing programmers to use more of the processing capacity for graphics — London Press Service.

## Lasers, lipids will cure cancers, mind disorders

By Neil Winton  
Reuter

BREASLETE, Isle Of Lewis, Scotland — In less than 20 years, inoperable tumours will be cured by a laser beam penetrating deep into the body and activating a cancer-killing compound.

And perhaps sooner than this, cancers, diabetes, skin diseases, and psychiatric disorders will all be tackled successfully by an understanding of how the bodies' lipids work.

This is the vision of Dr. David Horrobin, chief executive of pharmaceuticals firm Scotia Holdings. If this comes to pass millions of patients will be cured and his company and shareholders suitably enriched.

Scotia is one of many small pharmaceutical companies seeking to break into the big league by developing new drugs.

These companies are kept alive by investors pumping in money in the hope that the short-term gamble will pay off with big long-term gains when "blockbuster" drugs are discovered.

Scotia says it is different from most of these research-based companies, many of which seek drugs from biotechnology, as it has solid revenues and profits from a range of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and nutritional supplements.

But Scotia still managed to lose £9.2 million (\$14.31 million) in the half year

ending in June 30. Sales were £7.3 million (\$11.35 million).

Dr. Horrobin, who held academic medical posts in Britain, Kenya, and Canada before heading Scotia, questions the preoccupation with biotechnology.

Biotechnology, where scientists manipulate living organisms to seek cures for diseases or the improvement of crops, worries the public which suspects it might cause more harm than good.

"I think there have been too many science fiction stories of genetic manipulation and cloning. I think it will take a long time before they (the public) are really satisfied that this is a benign technology that doesn't have a potential for disaster," said Dr. Horrobin in an interview.

He was talking in his office overlooking one of Scotland's many scenic lochs at the company's new plant about 32 kilometres west of Stornoway in the outer Hebrides, a few hundred metres from the 4,000-year-old standing stones of Callanish.

Scotia opened a £6 million research and production facility there this month.

Treating cancers with light-activated drugs is called photodynamic therapy.

"This is a technology which treats cancer with drugs which are inherently

harmless, but which accumulate in the cancer and which can then be activated by light.

"After concentrating in the cancer cells you have a situation where most of the drug is in the cancer cells, and very little in rest of the body.

"If you then shine the right wavelength of light on the tissue, the light activates the drug, that makes the drug toxic and because it is in the cancer cells they die, and because it is not in the normal cells the normal cells are not affected," he said.

Scotia is developing Foscan, a photodynamic drug, which should be available by 1998. Some cancers caught in the early stages of development will be targeted by this treatment. But it will be up to 20 years before it becomes an all-round cure.

"We are working on ultra-light sensitive drugs where the light that you could shine through a person's whole body could activate that drug.

"So looking 15, 20 years down the line, you'd inject the drug. Two days later you'd put the patient into a light box for 10 minutes, the light would activate the drug, and the cancer cells anywhere in the body would be eliminated.

"You could put this right into the middle of the brain, or right into the liver, or anywhere," Dr. Horrobin said.

The study of lipids also promises to be a successful area for new pharmaceuticals.

"What convinces us that we are right is that if you look at the academic world every decent university in the world has a research group looking at the biological actions of lipids," Dr. Horrobin added.

Lipids are fats which make up the cell membrane and regulate almost all cell functions. Most pharmaceutical companies' products act on proteins or genes. Scotia is almost alone in seeking cures via lipids.

"We think that the thousand or so lipids that you find in the cell membranes are excellent targets for drug action," he continued. "The existing industry really doesn't look at that at all. We think the evidence is really building up very strongly that we are right."

"So I think the whole area of dermatology, diabetes, cancer — all of these are where lipids are very important. And finally, and perhaps the most important of all, is psychiatry."

"Because the brain is 60 per cent by weight lipid our brains are basically fat organs and they've got roughly 1,000 different types of lipid, each doing something different and specific, and what we are aiming to do is target drugs to particular aspects of those lipid functions."

## Wonder gas may ease ills from impotence to angina

By Paul Mylrea  
Reuter

BIRMINGHAM, England — A gas which is a toxic ingredient of acid rain is being dubbed a "wonder molecule" by scientists who believe it may offer help to sufferers of everything from impotence to arthritis and angina.

Professor Salvador Moncada told Britain's annual Science Festival that researchers were only just learning how to harness the "wonder molecule" — nitric oxide gas — after a research breakthrough showed the body produced it naturally.

Nitric oxide is pumped out of vehicle exhausts, reacting with oxygen in the air to form nitrous oxide, a toxic brown gas which attacks the lungs and skin.

But pioneering research over the last decade has

shown that cells in the body also produce the gas, which plays a key and until recently unsuspected role in controlling blood flows.

The gas dilates blood vessels, regulating blood pressure. It also plays a key role in the brain, potentially explaining key aspects of memory, and in the gastrointestinal tract.

Prof. Moncada says a better understanding of how the doctors can use the gas could eventually provide remedies for angina and hypertension, premature delivery in childbirth, inflammatory diseases like arthritis, and even irritable bowel syndrome.

But Prof. Moncada, from University College, London, said the first application will be for septic shock, when the body is overwhelmed by infection — particularly after surgical procedures — and blood

pressure collapses, often fatally.

In septic shock, excessive amounts of nitric oxide is produced. But trials in three London hospitals which could be completed by the end of this year show that blood pressure can be stabilised by blocking its production.

With around 200,000 people a year suffering septic shock in the United States and Europe alone — of whom 40 per cent or more die — Prof. Moncada said the trial offers hope of combating what he called "the nightmare of any clinician (doctor)."

Treatments involving the gas are also being tested as a cure for male impotence, after the discovery that nitric oxide is crucial for an erection, Prof. Moncada said.

The irony in current research is that treatments

using nitric oxide have been in use for over a century, but doctors did not understand the real reason why they worked.

Amyl nitrate and nitroglycerine, used to treat angina, both rely on their transformation to nitric oxide in the body, a fact only discovered in recent years.

But the body rapidly builds up a tolerance for nitroglycerine, and new understanding of how nitric oxide works could provide better drugs, Prof. Moncada said.

"That's the way science goes," he added. "You find something, then you don't understand how you pretended to understand something, and then it becomes a natural part of the present explanation of things... But this is really amazing."

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SANCTITY  
By Chuck Deodene

ACROSS

- 1 Moderator
- 2 Ritz
- 3 Boring great
- 4 Red
- 14 Cleverhead
- 15 Judicial
- 16 Proceedings
- 20 Media boss
- 21 Flooded
- 22 Cache of riches
- 23 Paper measure
- 24 Shipping route
- 25 Since 1959
- 27 Modfly
- 28 Oval hole
- 29 Evenness
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- 31 Telling amount
- 32 Years of love
- 33 See doctor's field
- 34 100 TV series
- 42 Table cover of 43
- 43 Celebration

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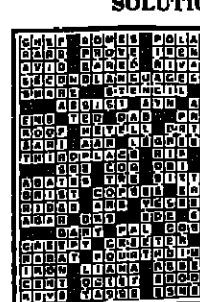
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- 15 Piquet
- 16 Archer's head
- 17 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 18 Zing, in Spain
- 25 Bruton
- 26 Flue backup

Diagramless, 17x17  
By Frances Burton

ACROSS

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- 2 Bit of yarn
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

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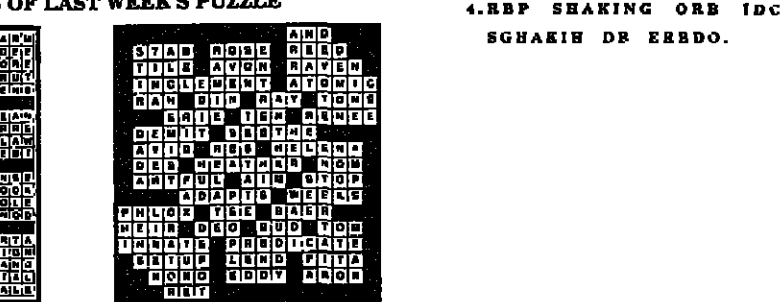
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



## Diabetics more likely to suffer angioplasty complications

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Nine years after undergoing angioplasty, diabetics have double the death rate of non-diabetics, according to a study published in the American Heart Association's journal Circulation.

More diabetics required repeat angioplasty — the surgical process in which a tiny balloon is pushed through cholesterol-afflicted blood vessels — and diabetics were at higher risk for heart attacks.

The study reveals that nine years after undergoing the procedure, which is designed to avert a potential heart attack, the death rate for diabetics was around 36 per cent — twice that of non-diabetics.

"It doesn't mean that (diabetics) shouldn't receive therapy; it just means that perhaps we need to develop a different treatment regimen," according to study lead author David Faxon, head of cardiology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Co-author Kevin Kip credits technological advances in medicine for having reduced the number of angioplasty-related complications, but adds "the long-term prognosis for diabetic angioplasty patients is still markedly worse than for the non-diabetics."

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute study followed 281 diabetics and 1,833 non-diabetics who underwent the life-saving procedure at one of 16 medical centres nationwide.

According to an editorial in the same issue by Sheldon Goldberg of Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College, doctors should be especially careful when treating diabetics, and consider alternatives to angioplasty.

Dr. Goldberg advises doctors to consider bypass surgery, special coils placed in blood vessels that widen them and keep them open, or the use of new drugs that may reduce complications.

## ANSWERS PUZZLES

1. Trowel.
2. Andiron.
3. Shako.
4. Crosier
5. Tom-tom.
6. Snow-shoe.

## BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The wild clematis.
2. The control column of an aeroplane.  
• A firework that throws out brightly-coloured balls.  
• A kind of teacake that is served hot.
3. Singapore.
4. A vegetable, something like an artichoke.
5. Hydrogen.
6. Seventy-eight feet.



# European guidance, expertise and assistance are still needed if the idea of peace is to transform our region; both the letter and the spirit of commitments must be respected

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in a speech at Sorbonne University in Paris, Oct. 21, 1996, said that comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by observance of United Nations resolutions 242 and 338, under the formula of land for peace. Following is the full text of Prince Hassan's speech:

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today. The last time I had the opportunity to visit the Sorbonne was in 1994. Baruch Goldstein's massacre in Hebron was still fresh in our memories. Many at the time thought that the peace process would be irreversibly derailed. However, the tragedy acted as a stimulus to further and deeper negotiation.

In the past weeks and months, the peace process has encountered some of the most serious challenges in its history. The pace of events is so unpredictable that what we say today may be out of date tomorrow. I would therefore like in this brief statement to focus upon the broad outlines of peace making and peace building; but I will be happy to discuss particular issues of concern in the time set aside for discussion.

The first point that needs to be made is that underlying realities do not change. Conflict has been the ruin of the region. It has prevented every single country from fulfilling its potential; and it has denied every single individual the basic right to a life free from fear and full of hope.

Conflict is the way of the



HRH Crown Prince Hassan Monday delivers a speech at Sorbonne University in Paris

past. It must not be the way of the future.

A new Arab-Israeli war is simply not worth contemplating for any party, regional or international. We all have a vital interest in preventing such a catastrophic situation.

I do not believe that there will be another Arab-Israeli war. But any scenario which fails to address the underlying problems of the region would be equally disastrous. A return to the "no-war, no-peace" status that preceded the present peace process would destroy the economies of the region no less surely than a war. It would remove from the region the possibility of international investment, and it would undermine what stability and confidence we have managed to build up.

My first point is therefore that there remains no viable alternative to peace. The question is thus not: Where are we going? The question is: How do we get there?

The second point that I would like to make concerns how we get there. If the bulk of public opinion in Israel supports the notion of peace based on agreed principles, as it does; and if the peoples of the Arab World still yearn for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, as they do; then such a peace must be our common and overriding objective. All parties in the region will have to look beyond day-to-day events towards this long-term objective, and deal with the situation at hand on that basis.

If it is of course essential that all parties honour their

agreements. These should not and cannot be renegotiated. If we are to build confidence, both the letter and the spirit of commitments must be respected. The formula of land for peace, expressed in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, remains vital.

I know that many of you have particular questions on issues of substance, such as the status of Jerusalem. I will address these fully in the discussion that follows. For now it is sufficient to assure you that Jordan will exert all possible efforts to support the Palestinian people in the pursuit of their historic and legitimate rights in their own national homeland.

Rejectionists on all sides will seek to impede progress in the difficult days and months ahead.

They will play on the fears of their people, and they will do their utmost to turn back the tide of gradual progress that has been eroding mutual mistrust and suspicion. They must not be allowed to succeed, for they offer no alternative and no future.

The political process of negotiation — bilateral and multilateral — must therefore be intensified. It must be backed up by the economic process of peace building, as embodied in the MENA summit process, the Barcelona process and so on. It must be backed up by the cultural process of reconciliation and mutual understanding, as embodied in the interfaith dialogues that we in Jordan have sponsored for many years now. And it must be backed up by a security and cooperation process.

Security cannot be exchanged for peace, for they are two sides of the same coin. Security can only be achieved as a result of comprehensive, just and lasting peace. However, last month's tragedies have highlighted our desperate need for new ways to discuss security and cooperation.

This brings me to my third point. I believe we can only fulfill this need if we can find a credible regional discourse. This does not mean building a new Middle East, but bringing the old Middle East into a new world.

A credible regional discourse must be underpinned by a sense of corporate identity, and the rights and obligations entailed in being part of the region. A code of conduct, comprising simple but obligatory

ground rules, must be articulated to specify these rights and obligations. Such a code of conduct might include respect for national borders, rejection of violence, cooperation on security and economic matters, willingness to participate in structured regional dialogue, democratisation and respect for human rights.

**"A credible regional discourse must not make the interests of any party subsidiary to the interests of any other. A zero sum game in which each state seeks to secure its own narrowly-defined short-term interests against those of every other state would have no winners. The losers would be the people of the region and their long-term interests, for a peace on such a basis would have no roots or foundations."**

The process would be facilitated by establishing credible consultative mechanisms for structured

regional dialogue, loosely based on successful international models such as CSCE and OECD. Such mechanisms are not conceived as a substitute for the peace process, but as a complement. They would provide fora in which to address the common problems of the region in international idiom. Although this can begin with sub-regional units, it should eventually involve all the regional players without exclusion in addressing all the issues without exception.

A credible regional discourse must not make the interests of any party subsidiary to the interests of any other. A zero sum game in which each state seeks to secure its own narrowly-defined short-term interests against those of every other state would have no winners. The losers would be the people of the region and their long-term interests, for a peace on such a basis would have no roots or foundations.

Instead of subsidiarity, a credible regional discourse would build upon complementarities. It would seek to improve living conditions for all across the region without discrimination or exclusion, on the basis of a genuine understanding of our inter-dependence on a range of inter-connected issues. Clusters of issues such as water, energy and the environment; health, education and civil society; and the spectrum of human rights must all be addressed in an inter-disciplinary and trans-national manner. This is because they all impact in an inter-connected way upon the living conditions and human dignity of individuals, wherever they are in the region.

Some of you might think that the objectives I have just outlined are matters for the distant future, not matters of direct relevance to the immediate tasks at hand. But as I have argued, we must cleave to a long-term vision if we are to chart a clear and consistent course through the turbulence of day-to-day events.

This vision must be informed by a regional perspective, for in today's world, there is no longer any room for the partisan and the parochial. There is room only for those who can communicate and cooperate with each other. There is room only for those who base their every action on devotion to the idea of peace.

Through centuries of bloodshed and war, the peoples of Europe resisted this idea. But in our own times, it has broken down barriers across the continent. Today, the peoples of the Middle East are undergoing the same process. The EU's moral influence, as a body that has overcome divisions as bitter as those which separate Arabs and Israelis, can help our region overcome the legacy of conflict. European guidance, expertise and assistance are still needed if the idea of peace is to transform our region. I remain confident that it can be done. For in the words of Victor Hugo: "On résiste à l'invasion des armées; on ne résiste pas à l'invasion des idées."

"A stand can be made against invasion by an army; no stand can be made against invasion by an idea."

## King warns against rise of extremism in Middle East

(Continued from page 1)

are Party to power.

Voicing full support for the government of Mr. Kabir, he said Jordan was about to have a comprehensive review of the democratisation process started in 1989 in "the direction of more democracy."

On the possibility of any government reshuffle, King Hussein stressed that "at the current stage there is no possibility of change or reshuffle."

He commended the performance of the opposition Islamic movement during the disturbances which took place in the south in August, but said the opposition parties should respect what he termed as "the principled stands of the Jordanian policy" in case they want to take part in any government in the future.

Following is a Jordan Times translation of major segments of the interview:

**QUESTION:** How do you view the course of recent developments after the Washington meeting especially with regard to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu?

**ANSWER:** In fact I was very concerned over the whole situation. Since the assassination of Rabin, we started feeling that the extremists are dictating their will on the arena. The Israelis are obsessed with the feeling that they are in need to be reassured over their security, their safety and their future. But on the other side the Arabs are in need of regaining their rights in full forefront of whom are the Palestinians who seek to establish their right on their national soil.

**Q:** What about Netanyahu?

**A:** The problem with Netanyahu is that what

has been agreed on was not implemented so far. In this situation, there was a need for the Washington meeting and it was necessary for me to express myself clearly and frankly about these topics. I aired my views there. I believe that my views have left a deep impression well taken by Netanyahu and understood by all present.

The summit was also an opportunity for discussing Jordanian-Palestinian issues, because the Palestinian brothers had lingering doubts in the past about Jordan and its intentions. Perhaps we had not had the chance in the past to address the Americans and the Israelis and the other parties in the same language I used at the summit.

**Q:** What exactly did you say?

**A:** What I said was timely and much of it has been leaked.

**Q:** Is there any indication that positive results will come out of that summit?

**A:** I believe that the efforts will be crowned with success, God willing.

**Q:** What was the message you intended to send out by visiting Jericho?

**A:** It was a visit to Palestine as I recognise the right of its people on their national soil. Jericho is part of that Palestinian land and I believe that the visit to Jericho has left a deep impression. I was overwhelmed by warm feelings of affection and appreciation by my brothers. The message was that I support the Palestinian brothers and leadership and to express our true feelings and solidarity with them not only in Washington but on the ground and everywhere until they regain their rights.

**Q:** Was Arafat satisfied with the visit?

**A:** I believe he was and

he had visited us here and insisted on my making the visit to Jericho.

**Q:** What were your personal feelings since Jericho was under your rule until 1967?

**A:** I was very happy that Jericho was returned to Arab sovereignty and to its own people. We had inherited the responsibility but the Palestinians wanted to shoulder their own responsibilities and we support them. We have no ambition in any inch of the Palestinian land. We are partners and brothers building on solid foundations of mutual confidence despite attempts to harm this relationship on both sides. God willing, we consider this a new serious beginning.

The Jordanian-Palestinian unity emerged from Jericho and the national conference entrusted us with the Palestinian question and people. We have now handed over this trust to the elected Palestinian leadership and we intend to continue supporting this leadership to regain the people's rights in Palestine.

**Q:** Do you fear real tension in the region or perhaps a war in the light of the deadlock?

**A:** What is dangerous is to reach a point where people lose hope and then deterioration could be accelerated. It is easy to destroy but difficult to construct.

**Q:** How do you view the European role in the light of (French President Jacques) Chirac's visit?

**A:** President Chirac is an old friend and we hope that he will support all our efforts to achieve a lasting peace.

**Q:** What is Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the U.S.-Israeli refusal of a European role?

**A:** Frankly I do not

believe that the U.S. rejects a European role, nor do I believe that the Europeans want to disregard the American position.

**Q:** Has there been any change (in Jordan's position) over Iraq in the light of the recent regional developments in the north?

**A:** Our stand has not changed. We hope that Iraq will see the end of the tunnel and protect its land and unity and that the Iraqis will have the chance for dialogue so that Iraq can one day serve as a good example for others in terms of pluralism, respect of human rights and democracy.

**Q:** Has there been a change on relations?

**A:** Nothing new. But we are concerned over further deterioration in the situation. Such development would pose a danger to all of us. We support Iraq's unity and territorial integrity. We hope the Iraqis will see the end of their sufferings soon.

**Q:** Does Jordan see any chance to help rehabilitate the Iraqi regime?

**A:** Jordan cannot do that and does not claim to have the power for rehabilitating any one. These regimes can rehabilitate themselves by themselves.

**Q:** You used to say that let Washington tell us what it wants from Iraq, does it want to bring down its regime, does it refuse to deal with Iraq's present regime. Did America tell you what it wants?

**A:** In my view the whole world did not tell us exactly what it wants. Perhaps there is a reconsideration of policies adopted in the past years.

**Q:** Were you informed about recent Syrian-Israeli negotiations?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Do you believe the Syrian statements that

Syria and Israel agreed on a withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines?

**A:** It came to my knowledge that documents were deposited in this matter with the U.S. but were not signed although they originated in Israel. There were also Syrian-Israeli accords over the detailed negotiations; these too were not signed. But I am surprised that four years of American diplomatic efforts between the two sides came to naught. I believe that the two sides came to an agreement on certain bases to build on and these should not be overlooked.

**Q:** Can we say Syria lost its chance?

**A:** History can only tell.

**Q:** Two years have elapsed since the signing of the Jordan-Israeli treaty. Do you believe the decision for the treaty was taken at the right time?

**A:** Yes, I do. It gave us what we had aspired for at the time. But peace should be comprehensive and therefore we hope that the process will continue on all tracks.

**Q:** Do you consider the treaty as a basic defence line for Jordan in the face of the Likud's ambitions?

**A:** It is clear that for the first time we have a recognised international boundaries. We regained our land and water.

**Q:** Do you believe that Rabin's death is a loss?

**A:** I believe he was a big loss and I believe he was the victim of the peace-making process.

**Q:** How do you evaluate Jordanian-Gulf relations?

**A:** Thank God, they are back on track and stronger than ever.

**Q:** Was there a response from the Gulf about Jordan's proposals over security cooperation for the region?

**A:** We never stopped

discussing security cooperation and never stopped joint action with our brothers in this matter.

**Q:** We have learnt that Jordan proposed security cooperation for the Gulf was there any response?

**A:** I believe Jordan has always regarded itself as a natural security depth for the Gulf. Soon we will witness joint exercises, and that will be the reply to the question.

**Q:** Has there been a retreat of threats to Jordan following your meeting with President Assad in Cairo?

**A:** Thank God it was a good meeting and the one in Damascus was even better.

**Q:** But we have not witnessed a follow-up to the Damascus meeting.

**A:** We have not had the chance and it is only a matter of time. We are following up on this matter and there are no problems in relations.

**Q:** Do you agree with Israel about allegations that Iran is destroying the peace process?

**A:** As to Iran we did not have the chance for a direct dialogue at the highest level that would determine where each side stands. We hope to have a strong relationship with Iran.

**Q:** How would you consider Jordanian-Turkish relations?

**A:** Nothing new in these relations.

**Q:** What do you mean by a reexamination of the Jordanian democratic process since 1989?

**A:** It is designed to achieve stronger democracy and more adherence to the National Charter and better government performance through cooperation from all sides.

**Q:** What about some political groups instigations against the govern-

ment and the leadership?

**A:** I remember saying at the start of democracy that we need 16 years to formulate new and more acceptable situations. We need to see people more affiliated to their country and to see elements that can better crystallise political parties life.

**Q:** Are you satisfied with the government's performance despite the recent bread riots?

**A:** Yes, I support the government because I am informed about all its responsibilities and I know that it has been performing its duty and not shirking responsibilities in the face of the problems. This government has been keen on ensuring for the Jordanian citizens all their needs, and no one has been negatively affected by the measures in any way. This government has achieved a great deal despite inheriting a budget that restricted its moves and its work. We are approaching a new budget and we hope it will give us momentum for the future.

**Q:** Will there be a royal pardon on your birthday?

**A:** This is a familiar practice from time to time.

**Q:** Will the amnesty cover those charged of slandering your leadership?

**A:** It is premature to discuss this subject. However, it is ironic to see some people unhappy at comedy programme on television which do not offend any one directly or the country's personalities whether in the government or in Parliament. It is strange to see their sharp reaction to the programmes and to contrast this position with their stand vis-a-vis actual offence... I myself bore a great deal and tolerated offence directed at myself.

**Q:** Is there any inten-

tion for reconsidering the elections law?

**A:** There is no alternative to that.

**Q:** What in your view is the best solution to the Palestine refugees question?

**A:** This is one of the problems that should be discussed at a later stage. But we consider all citizens as Jordanians enjoying the same rights and shouldering same duties with any other Jordanian. Of course this does not make him forfeit his rights to leave the country if he so decides.

**Q:** Is there a chance for the Islamic Action Front to participate in the government?

**A:** At present there is no chance for reshuffling or substituting the government. Anyone wishing to be part of the mechanism for the future should respect the country's principled stands and not to oppose them.

**Q:** How do you appraise the performance of the country's political parties in the democratic process?

**A:** I have said time and again that overcrowding tends to impede movement. The parties should be affiliated to the Kingdom and emanate from it. I believe it will be achieved in the coming stage.

**Q:** Do you have specific programmes for reforming the media?

**A:** I believe there is a constant dialogue between the government and Parliament. In this respect we are trying to improve but there is also a feeling of dissatisfaction over what the weekly tabloids write because some create jingoism in this country through the irresponsible behaviour and writings in the media.



## Jordan's greatest asset resides in the skill, talent and professional know-how of the people — World Bank

Following is the second of a four-part article that summarises a World Bank booklet which sheds light on the Jordanian economy. The first part was published Wednesday.

AMMAN — "Of all the challenges confronting Jordan, none is more crucial to future prosperity than the attempt to transform the regulated economy of the 70s and 80s into a modern, market-oriented economy," the World Bank said in a new booklet on the Jordanian economy.

"This restructuring is essential to help reduce Jordan's dependence on foreign labour and official sources of external capital," the bank stressed.

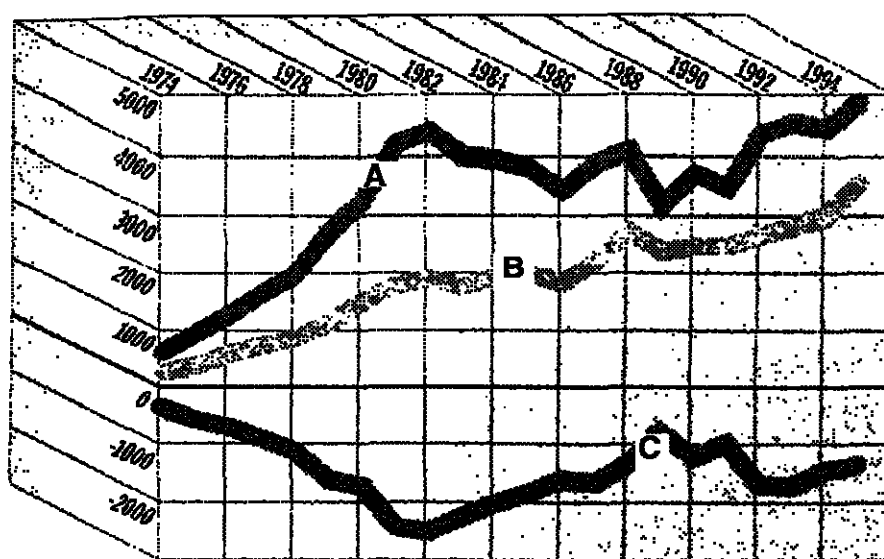
Noting that Jordan's domestic market (and the population's modest per capita income) forces it to look outward to sustain economic growth, the booklet emphasised that the Kingdom's ongoing shift towards outward orientation holds the key to meeting future demands for job creation and investment opportunities that are vital to economic and social health.

In analysing the Jordanian economy the bank wrote:

At present, Jordan maintains a high trade deficit, and a large proportion (over one third in recent years) of Jordan's exports is derived from raw materials such as phosphates and potash. The ongoing process of privatisation, deregulation, and trade liberalisation is encouraging diversification of Jordan's exports.

Although the natural resource base is limited, Jordan's educated workforce gives it the potential

### Exports, Imports and Trade Balance of Goods and Services



**A** Imports of Goods & Services  
**B** Exports of Goods & Services  
**C** Trade Balance of Goods & Services

to become a regional leader in businesses that rely on "human capital."

Tourism, telecommunications, higher education, health, finance, and a wide range of other service industries are but a few examples of areas where the private sector in Jordan possesses a strong potential for growth.

The government's reform programme is already generating positive results. Recent trade statistics indicate a narrowing of the import-export gap, and, just as importantly, the recent transport agreement with Israel is expected to open a large new market next door as Jordanian firms are well positioned to export to Israel and the West Bank and Gaza.

With a relatively low-wage but skilled labour force, it is becoming increasingly apparent that Jordan is a good place to invest in order to penetrate the new and potentially large regional markets.

The booklet showed the involvement of the World Bank in the reform and adjustment programme by saying:

The World Bank's economic reform and development loan, which was approved in 1995, provided \$80 million to help deepen and strengthen the government's economic adjustment programme.

The loan supported Jordan's efforts to establish the outward-oriented trade environment and investment-friendly business

environment needed to pave the way for a stronger export capacity and closer relations with international trading partners. It is part of

(Continued on page 9)

### REUTERS

### REUTERS

#### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLE	ERF
US Dollar	1.5217	0.8252	1.2542	112.90	1.3431	1528.70	1.7073	5.1447	
DE Mark	0.6572	1.0000	0.4113	0.9237	74.18	0.8824	1002.89	1.1219	3.3800
GB Sterling	1.5989	1.5989	1.0000	2.0025	180.14	2.1448	2437.07	2.7254	8.2125
CH Franc	0.7973	1.2124	0.4898	1.0000	90.00	1.0700	1218.98	1.3610	4.0994
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3465	0.5541	1.1099	1.0000	1.1887	13.51	151.09	4.5528
CA Dollar	0.7445	1.1404	0.4859	0.9386	1.19	1.1375	1.2794	3.8550	
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9957	0.4097	0.9821	1354.10	0.8789	11.17	3.2665	
NL Guilder	0.5857	89.09	0.3865	73.46	68.07	0.7862	893.70	3.0116	
FR Franc	0.1944	0.2957	0.1217	24.3737	21.93	0.2610	33.18	33.1800	

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	25.50	25.85
WTI	25.84	25.72
Bony	25.50	25.85
Dubai	22.00	21.97
UL Gas	234.00	234.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4059	0.16708	0.33476	30.1241
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.41471	0.17066	0.34193	30.7815
KW Dinar	3.3370	5.07872	2.09074	4.18936	377.074
BR Dinar	0.3770	4.03677	1.58168	3.32889	299.76
CV Pound	2.1504	3.2714	1.3461	2.6985	242.735

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	383.3	383.8
Silver (oz's)	4.97	4.99
Platinum (oz's)	388.7	387.7
AL (3 Months)	1403	1404
CU (3 Months)	1989	1971
Zinc (3 Months)	1024.5	1025
Lead (3 Months)	734	735
Nt (3 Months)	7175	7180

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.06	5.40	5.50	5.82	5.70
GBP	5.57	6.00	6.12	5.95	6.13
JPY	0.43	0.35	0.43	0.50	0.53
DEM	3.00	3.02	2.99	3.05	3.09
FRF	3.32	3.37	3.43	3.48	3.49
CHF	1.21	1.43	1.43	1.50	1.50
ITL	8.00	7.81	7.50	7.34	7.28

Main Equity Indices					
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High
New York	DOW JONES	8007.02	-54.78	-0.8	8060.31
New York	S&P 500	702.59	-3.58	-0.5	708.57
London	FT-SE 100	4028.4	-28.8	-0.71	4060.2
Frankfurt	DAX	2698.53	-19.45	-0.72	2725.73
					2786.94

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	124.75	Spot
Cocoa (c/lbs)	1481	Spot
Sugar (c/lbs)	324.8	Spot
Wheat (c/lbs)	155	Spot
Soy (c/lbs)	22.11	Spot
Tea (c/lbs)	115	Spot
Barley (c/lbs)	2.31	Spot
Rice (c/lbs)	485	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1293	1.1349
DE Mark	0.4637	0.466
CH Franc	0.5633	0.5661
FR Franc	0.1371	0.1378
JP Yen	0.528	0.5311
NL Guilder	0.4135	0.4154
IT Lira	0.4633	0.4665

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1996

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Plan time to accumulate data you need to complete any career activities which have developed. See influential people who can assist you with your task. Seize opportunities later this evening for any success.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Get into new interests today which can bring greater income and prestige your way. Business magazines and pamphlets can be helpful in your quest to become successful. Later tonight see some old friends.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You can handle advisors and personnel today and become more successful at this time. Do whatever activities which will please your mate and show him or her that you still have the same level of affections as you have had before.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) If you are more concerned today with details you can come to a better understanding with fellow associates. Later this evening will be good for you to seek out knowledgeable persons who have ideas concerning career activities.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Schedule your activities for today wisely so that you can accomplish the utmost and make life easier for your loved ones. Tonight will be good for you to go out on the town with your mate and have a romantic time.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You can get into new outlets today and get good results if you apply yourself. A special talent should be expressed later this evening, so that you can become successful with your career efforts in the days ahead.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day today to make your home a haven of rest and relaxation for those under your roof. Invite close friends and relatives in for the evening and show them a good time which they will enjoy greatly.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Make everything right for you in the business world today, so that you can gain the recognition of someone in authority. An expert can enter your life for the better and thereby make your efforts more productive.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Do whatever today will bring you a greater abundance for your loved ones. Consult that good advisor you know later this evening and use the suggestions you are given to make your life more enjoyable.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Analyse your personal life today and plan how to make it more prosperous in the days ahead. Tonight be with persons you enjoy and relax away the pressures of your busy schedule of career activities.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Forget all those impossible dreams today and get right down to what is practical and profitable about your career activities. Later tonight spend some quality time with your loved ones and make sure that know of your appreciation.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You like to be pretty much by yourself today, however, it is wise to be more gregarious at this time and seek out close friends to have some fun. Later this evening you can go out on the town with your loved one.

### Correction

Due to an oversight, it was erroneously mentioned in Wednesday's issue of the Jordan Times that the Kingdom's exports were almost equal to those of Egypt when non-traditional exports are excluded. The correct information as stated by the senior World Bank official should be that the exports were almost equal to those of Egypt when traditional exports are excluded. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

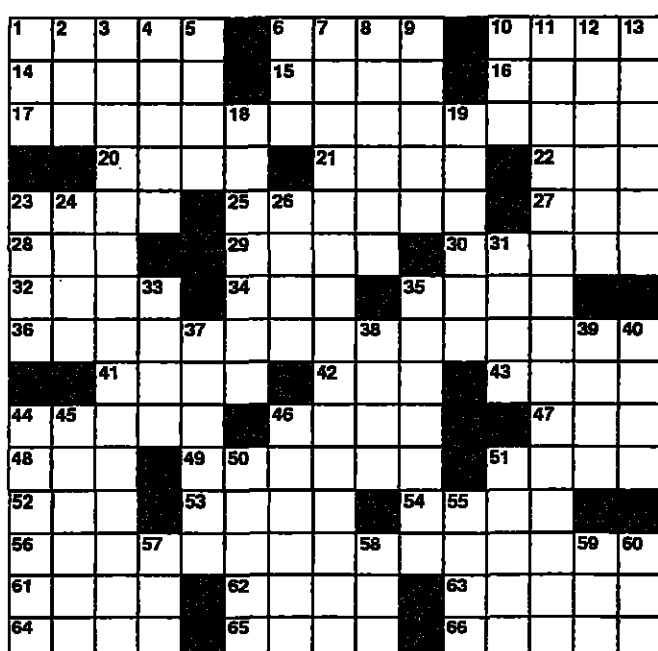
### THE Daily Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Egg-shaped
- 6 "Around" (Beach Boys hit)
- 10 Thin Man's dog
- 14 Word of welcome
- 15 Munitions
- 16 Some breads
- 17 Where remedies are kept
- 20 Not fern, or neut.
- 21 Architect
- 22 With 3D, book by 25A
- 23 Caldwell's "Tobacco"
- 25 Hemingway
- 27 That ship
- 28 Bed and breakfast
- 29 Whigley nine
- 30 Kilmer poem
- 32 College sports org.
- 34 Explorer Johnson
- 35 Conspiracy
- 36 Canine cleaner?
- 41 Exploit
- 42 Play on words
- 43 Arthritis
- 44 Provide food service
- 46 Stable mother
- 47 Stole material
- 48 Kirghiz city
- 49 Early calculator
- 51 Actor Danny De
- 52 Employ
- 53 Armored vehicle
- 54 Baghdad, e.g.
- 56 Migratory bird of old
- 61 Stead
- 62 Soda server
- 63 Healthcare provider
- 64 Panache
- 65 Words of approximation
- 66 Painter's undercoat

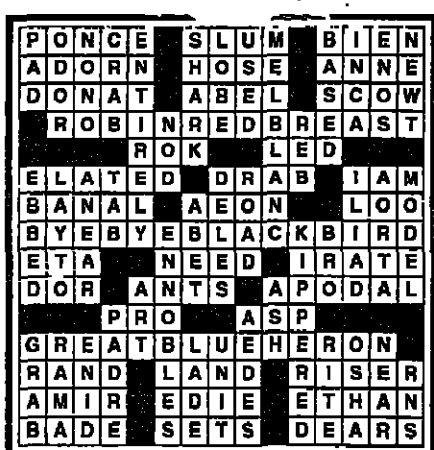
#### DOWN

- 1 Resistance unit



by Chuck Deodene

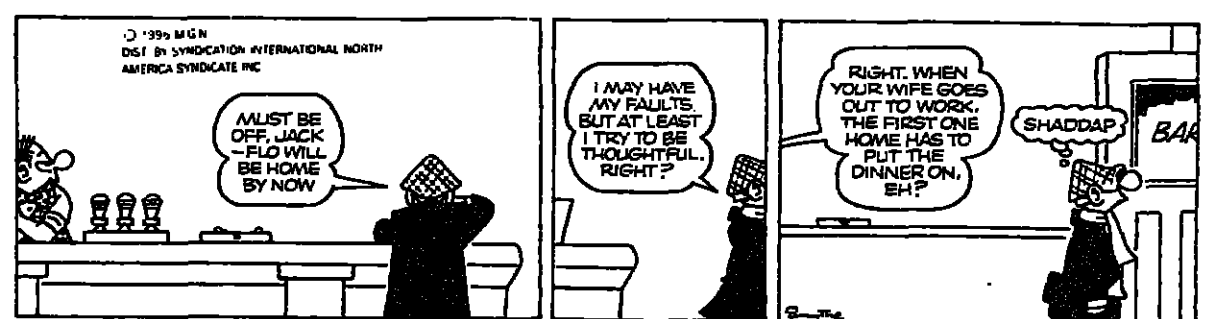
- 2 Churchill gesture
- 3 See 22A
- 4 Greek epic
- 5 Physicians, for short
- 6 Suffix with Orwell
- 7 Superbowl II victors
- 8 Hosts
- 9 Russian autocrats
- 10 Onassis, briefly
- 11 Nylon, Orlon, Dacron, etc
- 12 Quaint giggle
- 13 Oxeyes
- 14 Frigid
- 15 Container
- 16 Husk kin
- 24 Formerly
- 26 Make haste
- 31 Writer Jaffe
- 33 Suit to
- 35 Evergreen stickum
- 37 Infuse with gas
- 38 Spiritual advisor
- 39 Closed



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- 40 Rookie
- 44 Link, as rail cars
- 45 Set upon
- 46 Site of the Nativity
- 50 Bluegrass rival
- 51 Indistinct
- 55 Engagement signifier
- 57 Solar system
- 58 Onetime MGM
- 59 CIA forerunner
- 60 Modernist

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can become very energetic today and accomplish anything worthwhile which is necessary to your success with career activities. Be careful in motion while on the highway later this evening and stay out of difficulty.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Study that new interest today you have in mind and get started on it enthusiastically. Be direct with knowledgeable persons for best results with your career activities and thereby you can be quite successful.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Take care today not to disagree with your mate of you could be in great difficulty with him or her. Do things you have planned and be poised to handle any situation which could be present in the days ahead.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get rid of uneasiness today and confer with those who can help you attain your ambitions with career activities. Later tonight make the effort to seek out the information you will need to complete important tasks.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) State your ideas clearly today and fellow associate will cooperate with you more. Don't get into any disagreement with your mate over petty ideas, otherwise you can create a situation which was unnecessary.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Plan the days ahead more wisely and include amusements which can bring you more happiness to your loved ones. Later this evening you can spend some relaxing time with close friends and have some fun together.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You can accomplish more at home today, so handle important affairs which have been put aside. Entertaining is best at home tonight, invite as many close friends and fellow associates as you possibly can.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get your property improved today and add to its value and beauty. Listen to what experts have to suggest and use the advice you are provided to make career activities much more productive and successful.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Plan how today to have more time with the one you love, so that he or she will appreciate your effort. Arrange the days ahead more wisely together, so that you can have more romantic periods with each other.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You may feel tired today, however, you can go full steam ahead after what you want accomplish, and thereby gain the success you are after. Later this evening make time to be with your loved ones and show your appreciation.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Concentrate on many contacts today who would like to be affiliated with you. It could be mutually satisfying if you seek out the assistance of a bigwig who is eager to come to your aid with career activities.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You can do whatever will improve your worldly status today, so make the effort to accomplish whatever tasks you are given. Be most careful in any speech or motion at this time or you could be in great difficulty.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline.



**HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1996**

By Thomas S. Pien

**ARIES:** March 21 to April 19. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Taurus:** April 20 to May 20. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Gemini:** May 21 to June 20. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Cancer:** June 21 to July 21. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Leo:** July 22 to August 22. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Virgo:** August 23 to September 22. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Libra:** September 23 to October 22. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Scorpio:** October 23 to November 21. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Sagittarius:** November 22 to December 21. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Capricorn:** December 22 to January 19. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Aquarius:** January 20 to February 18. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

**Pisces:** February 19 to March 20. You are becoming very energetic today and accomplishing anything which is necessary. Your success will be achieved. Be careful not to overdo it. You may feel this evening and the night of the 25th. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should. You may feel that you are not doing as well as you should.

## Jordan suspends import taxes on sugar and rice

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordan Wednesday announced a six-month suspension of duty on sugar and rice in an attempt to induce the private sector to import the two basic foodstuffs and bring down prices for consumers. The supplies ministry said in a statement it had decided to suspend the 15 per cent tax after earlier attempts to liberalise imports had failed to boost private sector involvement. It added that the government would continue to buy rice and sugar itself to sell to consumers.

The set price of a kilogramme of sugar distributed by the ministry is 0.15 dinars (21 cents) for Jordanians provided with ration coupons by the government and 0.36 dinars (50 cents) for those without. A kilogramme of rice costs 0.17 dinars (24 cents) and 0.38 dinars (53 cents) for the two categories of consumers.

## Daily Business

A review of news from the Arabic press

### New agricultural, food company offers one million shares for public subscription

AL FAJR Al Jadeed for Agricultural Investments and Food Industries is offering one million shares, each valued at JD1, for public subscription to complete its registered capital of JD4 million. The company was registered as a public shareholding company at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Sept. 22, 1996 with 111 investors/funders acquiring three million shares and paying 25 per cent of their subscription share.

The company listed the following nine main activities that it plans to undertake upon commencing operations:

1. Rearing and fattening cattle and producing red meat.
2. Bee-keeping and producing honey.
3. Creating fish pond.
4. Raising poultry and rare birds such as ducks, swans and turkeys as well as egg and white meat production.
5. Planting grains, trees, medicinal plants and grasslands.
6. Purchasing farmlands and agricultural projects of all kinds.
7. Exporting and importing all types of foodstuffs, cattle, fodder and agricultural equipment.
8. Trading in all kinds of produce and foodstuffs.
9. Establishing cold storages.

The main founders of the company are: The Arab Fisheries Company (250,000 shares), Mahmoud Abu Nejm (250,000 shares), Abdul Mu'ti Ahmad Hussein (250,000 shares), Tuma Tallo Shamoun, an Iraqi national, (200,000 shares), Mahmoud Masheh (200,000 shares), Salim Al Khoja (150,000 shares), Yassin Sartawi (125,000 shares), Mohammad Ali Tamireh (100,000 shares), Munther Ismail Mohamad (100,000 shares), Mohammad Mah-moud Asqalan (100,000 shares), Marwan Al Horani (100,000 shares), Harbi Ghassoub (100,000 shares) and Mohammad Rashid Yassin (100,000 shares).

According to an announcement in the Arabic dailies, the capital will be invested in the following areas:

1. Lands JD1,059,000
2. Main buildings JD215,000
3. Project facilities JD865,000
4. Equipment + vehicles JD591,500
5. Furniture + fixtures JD60,000
6. Beehives + equipment JD137,000
7. Trees JD172,500
8. Cattle JD177,250
9. Various investments JD222,750
10. Establishment expenses JD100,000
11. Working capital JD400,000

The subscription will start from Nov. 2 and close Nov. 23, 1996. Investors must buy a minimum of 200 shares and pay 25 per cent of the cost upon subscribing with the remaining cost to be covered over the coming four years (Al Ra'i).

## Jordanian private sector possesses strong potential growth in service industries

(Continued from page 8)

a series designed to help achieve these objectives.

In addition, the World Bank's \$40 million loan for the export development project, approved in 1996, will provide better access to commercial financing for firms wishing to expand their exports.

Since the government's programme of economic adjustment is likely to involve some short-term dislocations, the World Bank Group is also working with the government to build an effective "safety net" for the poor and the adversely affected. This includes a microenterprise financing facility by the

International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm, and a programme of public assistance targeted at the most needy.

The booklet also examined the education sector and highlighted that "Jordan has an impressive record" in this area. The bank pointed out that 30 years ago, 46 per cent of the population was literate; today that number stands at 80 per cent.

This widespread growth in literacy has been accompanied by equally impressive increases in the number of high school graduates, college graduates and professionals with advanced degrees, the bank said.

In examining the education sector, the booklet included the following observations:

In Jordan 80 per cent of the poor are employed, but reside in households dependent on wages earned from menial and low-skill labour. This underscores the crucial importance of education in imparting skills necessary to rise above poverty level and low-income employment.

Consequently, the government has made a commendable effort to ensure that primary and secondary education is accessible to all children — rich and poor alike.

That goal has, by and large, been achieved for the current school-age generation. But in the coming years heavy new burdens

will be placed on the primary and secondary school system.

This is due to the fact that Jordan is a young society. More than 67 per cent of the population is under the age of 25, and the rate of population growth is still in the high range of 3.6-3.8 per cent per annum.

Meeting the needs of future generations will require increased investment in education to ensure the construction of new schools, the training of more teachers, and the availability of textbooks and learning materials.

The government is making this investment and is committed to raising the quality of the educational system. To assist in that process the World Bank has provided funding for nine major education projects in Jordan. Other donors have contributed additional millions by participating as cofinanciers of various education projects.

Since 1987 the World Bank has committed \$173 million in three loans to help Jordan meet the challenge of providing high quality education for its rapidly growing student population. These loans financed the construction of new schools with well-equipped libraries, and improved the quality of instruction through the establishment of teacher resource centres, the provision of an improved curriculum and other teaching resource materials, and training for teachers and other education professionals.

In order to strengthen the link between education and

## Seminar on capital markets ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 60 bank managers and directors of departments in financial institutions and industrial firms in Jordan Wednesday ended a three-day seminar on capital markets during which they reviewed important topics pertaining to financial markets with special attention to recent developments in the world of finance and their impact on Jordanian banks.

According to Adib Haddad, dean of the Institute for Banking Studies which organised the meeting in conjunction with Citibank, the participants reviewed the nature and concept of capital markets along with modern financial instruments, contracts, syndicated loans and future banking operations. The participants applied case studies depicting stock markets in Europe and the United States.

Several American bankers addressed the seminar which oriented Jordanian bankers on world banking operations, cooperation among financial institutions and methods for developing Jordanian banking operations, said Dr. Haddad.

He added that the creation of the European Union and the emergence of giant economic blocs around the world and the merger of major banks may pose the most serious challenge for the Arab banking industry.

According to Dr. Haddad the seminar issued a set of recommendations and proposals designed to help local banks to develop, upgrade and modernise their present systems.

He said the participants called for introducing new financial instruments that will help expand the scope of profits, merge banks to be able to confront the challenges posed by world conglomerates, develop the skill of bank employees, develop the local and Arab financial markets and help increase funds and public savings for investments.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 23/10/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.6	1.41	26	1060	262960	248.00	243.00	-1.00	
3.800	2.350	BANK OF JORDAN	10.8	0.03	1	2500	9164	2.25	2.25	-0.00	
1.260	.880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	70.9	0.00	7	3050	3324	1.09	1.39	.30	
5.250	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.8	2.88	1	1000	4800	4.80	4.50	-.30	
1.200	.890	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.78	14	13650	12395	.81	.90	.09	
3.950	3.500	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	19.3	0.00	2	8650	21860	5.60	3.60	-.20	
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.0	0.00	5	1150	4323	3.73	1.75	-.02	
5.850	4.500	ARAB BANKING CO.	23.3	0.00	11	3305	14861	4.61	4.50	-.11	
1.640	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	8	9450	12942	1.37	1.37	-	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 190.39	%CHG: +0.32	75	44331	355785				
2.910	1.990	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.6	10.05	8	3750	7482	1.99	1.99	-	
3.050	2.010	YARMOUK INSUR.	9	0.00	1	1500	3195	2.13	2.13	-	
2.320	1.900	HOLY LAND INSUR.	6.3	0.00	1	200	420	2.10	2.10	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 118.98	%CHG: 0.00	10	5450	11097				
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.1	7.50	12	7616	12185	1.60	1.60	-	
2.800	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	10.5	-8.00	7	14750	36648	2.47	2.50	.03	
2.050	1.080	KATI. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	41	17150	21486	3.22	1.24	-.01	
1.260	.590	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	33.9	0.00	8	6200	4092	.67	.66	-.01	
2.380	1.630	MID. EAST HOTELS	72.8	0.00	1	100	369	1.64	1.69	.05	
3.660	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	13.9	5.68	3	3900	13708	3.50	3.52	.02	
1.340	.960	CARPA EDUCATION	9	0.00	3	700	797	1.13	1.14	.01	
2.430	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	9.2	5.71	10	1950	3403	1.75	1.75	-	
1.200	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	2	650	592	.91	.91	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.74	%CHG: +0.47	85	53261	93284				
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.9	3.03	9	2942	9706	3.30	9.30	-	
5.960	4.780	ARAB POLISH CO.	16.8	3.00	4	420	2176	5.52	5.55	.03	
10.550	6.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.2	8.79	13	519	4721	9.10	9.10	-	
3.750	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	29.6	0.00	1	500	1100	2.21	2.20	-.01	
8.150	6.420	JOR. ROASTED MILLS	8.9	3.99	1	100	696	6.96	6.96	-.01	
4.870	3.100	ARAB PUM. WAF.	18.8	5.88	14	4716	15990	3.38	1.42	-.04	
6.450	5.650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.5	4.12	1	100	607	6.07	6.07	-	
2.460	1.710	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	9.4	7.06	1	300	510	1.72	1.70	-.02	
4.050	3.100	JOR. PAPER CARDBO.	16.7	3.08	1	100	325	3.25	3.25	-	
5.860	3.130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.7	8.57	4	6500	22750	3.50	3.50	-	
.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	102	159986	107196	.68	.66	-.02	
1.500	1.060	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	8.2	8.63	1	500	600	1.20	1.20	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.73	%CHG: +0.25	240	222100	212781				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 148.66	%CHG: +0.29	410	325142	672947				

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henry Arnold and Mike Angillon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAWRD  
APANG  
REBARL  
DILPIM

Here's another case for our argument

WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A LAWYER'S APARTMENT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: THICK LINGO PLURAL GRATIS  
Answer: Making sausage the old fashioned way gave him this - A LINK TO THE PAST

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## Yankees come back to life

ATLANTA (R) — Bernie Williams came back to life on Tuesday, and so did the road-warrior New York Yankees.

The Yankee centre fielder's two-run homer in the eighth inning helped seal a 5-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves in Game 3 of the World Series just when it appeared they might be swept.

Williams, the American League championship series most valuable player, had gone hitless in overwhelming Yankees losses in games 1 and 2 of the series, but he never got down on himself.

"My attitude was pretty good," said Williams, who drove in three runs and scored twice. "I was approaching the game the same way, just go out there and do my best."

The Yankees are trying to become just the third team ever to win a world series after losing the first two games at home.

Yankee starter David Cone survived a tense pitchers' duel with Tom Glavine, leaving the game with the Yanks ahead 2-1 after six innings. Glavine left after seven, but his reliever Greg McMichael allowed three runs on three hits, including Williams' home run, without getting an out.

The Yankees are a perfect 6-0 on the road this post-season and need to win one of the next two games in Atlanta to guarantee a return of the best-of-seven series to New York.

"I don't know how to explain it, and I'm not going to try," Williams said about the Yanks' road success. "We just seem to be able to relax."

The loss broke a five-game win streak by the defending World Series champion Braves, who had won three in a row to take the National League championship series after trailing the St. Louis Cardinals three games to one.

"We were trying our butts off tonight, we just couldn't get anything

done," said Atlanta manager Bobby Cox.

Cone, who got the win, allowed four hits, one run and four walks with three strikeouts.

Glavine, who pitched last year's series clincher for the Braves, also allowed four hits, but two runs — only one of them earned — along with eight strikeouts and three walks. He took the loss.

John Wetteland pitched the ninth and got the save.

The Yankees scored in the first inning when Tim Lincecum walked, Derek Jeter bunted him over and Williams got his first series hit in his eighth at-bat, a single that plated Raines.

"The biggest hit of the day was my single in the first because it put us ahead for the first time," said Williams. "From then on we looked forward to playing the game."

Cone agreed. "Right after the first inning you could sense, hey that's the first lead we've had all series, maybe momentum's going to turn our way."

Williams led off the third by reaching first on an error by shortstop Jeff Blauser. Cecil fielder walked and Charlie Hayes fled out, moving Williams to third. Darryl Strawberry then drove in Williams with a single to make it 2-0.

The Yankees went on to load the bases, bringing Cone to the plate with two out. "I was just thinking get the bat on the ball at that point," said Cone.

The Yankee pitcher almost helped his own cause with a grounder near third, but Chipper Jones made a diving snare and scrambled to tag the base.

"Chipper made a heck of a play. I thought it was going to make it down the line," said Cone.

Cone committed the ultimate no-no in the sixth inning, giving a leadoff walk to the opposing pitcher. He then yielded a



Atlanta Braves pitcher Tom Glavine delivers a pitch during 1st inning play in game three of the World Series against the New York Yankees. The New York Yankees defeated the Atlanta Braves 5-2. The Braves lead the best-of-seven series 2-1 (Reuters photo)

single to Marquis Grissom and an out later walked Chipper Jones to load the bases for the dangerous Fred McGriff.

Yankee manager Joe Torre conferred with Cone, but left him in and he got McGriff to pop out. But Ryan Klesko drew the third walk of the inning, scoring Glavine to make it 2-1.

With the bases still full, Javier Lopez hit a foul pop caught by Joe Girardi, who had saved two possible wild pitches in the inning. The Yankee catcher was also a perfect 2-for-2 throwing out would-be base stealers.

In the eighth, Jeter sin-

gled and Williams got his sixth homer of this post-season, tying three others for the record.

"It was a 1-0 fast ball. It started inside and came right back to the plate," said Williams. "I knew I hit it pretty good."

Fielder doubled, pinch-runner Andy Fox took third on a ground-out and scored two batters later on Luis Sojo's single to right to make it 5-1.

Atlanta scored its final run in the eighth when Grissom led off with a triple and Mark Lemke singled him home.

Cone, who missed three months this season after surgery for an aneurysm

in his pitching arm, finally got a world series win in his third career series start.

"It's mind boggling," said Cone. "It's tough to put it in perspective. When I was lying in the hospital bed and I heard the word aneurysm, I didn't even know what it meant. Playing in the World Series was the furthest thing from my mind."

Cone started twice for the Toronto Blue Jays against the Braves in 1992 without a decision. He was 0-1 in two starts in this post-season.

Glavine is now 4-3 in seven World Series starts.

## Augenthaler to leave Bayern after 20 years

MUNICH (R) — Klaus Augenthaler, Bayern Munich's assistant coach and former World Cup libero, is almost certain to leave the German club after more than 20 years.

Augenthaler, who played in Germany's 1990 World Cup winning team, has been told his contract will not be renewed at the end of the season, the German sports magazine Sport Bild reported on Wednesday.

"I told him: 'Klaus, you can't be assistant coach at Bayern for ever,'" the magazine quoted chairman Franz Beckenbauer as saying. "You have to take on a team for yourself. You are capable of leading another team."

Augenthaler joined Bayern as a teenager in 1975 and was capped 27 times.

After finishing his playing career he has worked as assistant for the past five years under several coaches. The current Bayern trainer is Italian Giovanni Trapattoni.

## Middlesbrough release Branco

LONDON (R) — Branco, a member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning side, has been released by English Premier League side Middlesbrough with eight months of his contract to run.

Signed by manager Bryan Robson last February, Branco, 32, has played only six league games for the club.

He was one of a clutch of big-name internationals signed by the relatively unfashionable north-east club, including countrymen Juninho and Emerson and Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli.

The club have agreed to pay off the remainder of Branco's contract, believed to be worth 500,000 sterling (\$782,000).

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Medvedev pulls out of Paris Open

PARIS (R) — Andrei Medvedev, finalist in 1993, has withdrawn from the Paris Open next week with a shoulder injury, organisers said on Tuesday. The Ukrainian will be replaced by Italian Renzo Furlan in Friday's draw for the tournament at Bercy starting Monday. The organisers also announced they had granted wild cards to former French Open champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain, ranked 68th in the world, French Davis Cup players Guy Forget and Guillaume Raoux and their compatriot Lionel Roux.

### Mazzone takes over at Cagliari

CAGLIARI (AFP) — Carlo Mazzone was confirmed as the new coach of Serie A side Cagliari here on Tuesday — his second term at the club. Mazzone, who replaces the Uruguayan Gregorio Perez sacked on Monday as Cagliari are 16th in the league, signed a two-year contract worth \$500,000. Mazzone coached Cagliari till 1993 when he left for AS Roma, where he stayed for three years until he was replaced by the Argentinian Carlos Bianchi.

### Italy creates anti-hooligan team

MILAN (AP) — Volunteers called Stadium Angels will work with police to combat hooliganism in some soccer arenas in northern Italy, authorities said Tuesday. The Angels, wearing yellow overalls, will mix with fans during league games in Milan, Brescia and Bergamo and will call police via walkie-talkies in case of disturbances. The trained volunteers, who are expected to begin their work in December, will also assist people injured or otherwise in need of help during matches. Dozens of riot police are already on duty inside and outside Italian stadiums on Sundays.

### Chelsea official dies in air crash

LONDON (R) — Matthew Harding, vice-chairman of English Premier League soccer club Chelsea, was killed in a helicopter crash on Tuesday night, the Sky television channel said on Wednesday. Harding and four other people were killed when their helicopter crashed with no survivors in Cheshire, northern England, on the way back from Chelsea's League Cup match in Bolton, it said.

### Bailey: Johnson duel should be held

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada's Donovan Bailey, the 100 metres world record holder, said Tuesday that his duel with 200 metres world record holder Michael Johnson of America should go ahead. Bailey, Olympic and world 100 metres champion, said that if the race took place it would be in May over 150 metres. The Jamaican born Canadian sprinter said he hoped the match would take place in Canada, preferably in Toronto.

### Tomba out of action

MILAN (R) — Italian Olympic and world Alpine skiing champion Alberto Tomba has been ordered to rest for up to 20 days after injuring himself while training on a glacier. Tomba fell heavily, injuring his left knee and right wrist, at a training session in northern Italy on Tuesday and had to go to hospital for checks. "Tomba will have to rest for 15-20 days before taking up competitive activity," the Italian Winter Sports Federation said on Wednesday. The triple Olympic champion, who trains apart from other Italian skiers, had already ruled out the season-opening race on the glacier in Sölden, Austria, at the weekend.

### Bordeaux seek way out of slump

BORDEAUX (R) — Jean-Pierre Papin's Bordeaux, high flyers in the first weeks of the season, will be looking to end a disastrous slump, including two successive home defeats, when they entertain Montpellier Thursday. "(The players) are all as conscious as me that this sequence can't and mustn't last," trainer Roland Courbis said on Wednesday. Bordeaux, unbeaten in their first nine matches, were hot on leaders Paris Saint-Germain's heels until they crashed 2-1 at home to Strasbourg three weeks ago. They now trail them by 11 points. Papin was away on private business in the United States but his return to the side has not sparked a return to form. Bordeaux have taken only two points from their last five games. The former Marseille, AC Milan and Bayern Munich striker will lead the attack alongside Didier Tholot, with Argentine Claudio Biaggio on the bench. PSG travel to Rennes on Friday.

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22 - 29 October 1996  
at the Main Theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre

## PROGRAMME

- |   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
| 1) Sostiene Pereira (Pereira Holds)                             | 22/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Roberto Faenza  | 23/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 2) Regalo di Natale (Christmas Present)                         | 23/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Pupi Avati  | 24/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 3) Romanzo di un giovane povero (The Story of a Poor Young Man) | 24/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Ettore Scola  | 25/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 4) Una storia semplice (A Simple Story)                         | 26/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Emilio Gresio   | 27/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 5) Per grazia ricevuta (For Favours Received)                   | 27/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
| Director: Nino Manfredi   | 28/10 | 5:00 p.m. |
| 6) Nemici d'infanzia (Childhood Enemies)                        | 28/10 | 8:00 p.m. |
|   | 29/10 | 5:00 p.m. |

All films are Italian with subtitle in English. Entrance ticket is JD 1 for adults and 500 fils for students. All proceeds will go to the Centre for Special Education of the Young Muslim Women's Association.

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Both vulnerable, North deals.  
NORTH  
♠ A 8 7 4  
♥ A K 5  
♦ A K 10 3  
♣ 9 5

WEST  
♠ 9 6 3  
♥ 8 7 6 3  
♦ J  
♣ A Q 7 6 4

EAST  
♠ K 5  
♥ Q J 8 4  
♦ 8 6 3 2  
♣ 10 8 2

The bidding:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass  
2♠ Pass 2♥ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.  
When an opponent has nasty things in store for you, don't submit meekly. See if you can find a way to recover from a distributional whim.  
North-South reached four spades after an orderly auction. The fit for opener's suit made the South hand even better than its point-count suggests.  
West led the jack of diamonds.

and the threat of a diamond ruff was imminent. If declarer took a spade finesse at trick two and it lost, East would give West a diamond ruff and a major-suit exit would leave the fate of the contract to hinge on guessing the location of the club honors, if possible.

It is a little better to lead the queen of spades at trick two and, if West does not cover, rise with the ace and return a spade. However, if East holds the king of spades and West the third trump, West will still get the diamond ruff and exit with a heart, making the success or failure of the contract again dependent on the club suit.

That suggests another improvement. Strip West of all safe exit cards before allowing the ruff. Win the diamond, cash the ace and king of hearts and ruff a heart in the closed hand. Now cash the ace of spades and lead another spade. West can still ruff a diamond, but now is left with only hearts and clubs. A heart allows declarer to ruff in hand while discarding a club from dummy. A club is up to the king and limits declarer's loss in that suit to one. Either way, the contract is safe.

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## Despite exciting finale, MLS has long way to go

LOS ANGELES (R) — As if there was any doubt about which brand of football reigns supreme in the United States, look no further than the weekend's television ratings.

An estimated 16.5 million people watched the San Francisco 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals in a mid-season National Football League matchup. In contrast, about 1.6 million viewers tuned in to the inaugural MLS Cup — Major League Soccer's version of the Super Bowl.

But what a game they saw, along with some 32,000 sodden fans at Foxboro Stadium outside Boston.

When Washington DC United came from two goals down to beat the Los Angeles Galaxy 3-2 on a water-logged pitch in overtime, Hollywood could not have written a better plot to showcase the game to the American sports public.

MLS officials could not have hoped for a better spectacle in its first championship match, a contest sure to win over some new supporters as the world's sport struggles to elbow itself into the big leagues in a country where American football, baseball, basketball and hockey monopolize the sports stage.

The World Cup two years ago helped, and MLS officials crow that crowds exceeded their wildest expectations.

The league had promised exciting attacking play and the 10 teams delivered, with a 3.4 goals per game average. In 160 regular season games, only five finished 0-0 with the winner decided by shootout.

The early TV ratings from the championship game however, show soccer still has a long way to go.

"We did the world cup and obviously, our ratings were up for that," said an ABC network spokesman. "It will take time with soccer, but this was a good first start, especially since it

was up against the NFL."

The average 17,416 attendance through 160 regular-season games was more than double anticipated with some huge crowds in Los Angeles outdrawing even the hometown baseball Dodgers.

More than 92,000 turned out as the Galaxy beat the Tampa Bay Mutiny at the Rose Bowl in the second part of a double-header after the United States played Mexico. And Giants stadium outside New York saw the biggest crowd for any sporting event there when 78,614 watched the MLS All-Star game.

"We definitely need to do a better marketing job in several of our markets — Denver, Tampa and perhaps even Kansas City — to make the audiences grow in those particular locations," said MLS commissioner Douglas Logan.

He pointed out that renegotiation of the current three-year TV contract with the Cable sports network ESPN would be crucial to expanding MLS visibility.

"Come our second contract... You are going to see significantly more games over the air as opposed to strictly on cable," Logan said in the league magazine Freekick.

Meanwhile, the league is going ahead with plans to expand from the present 10 teams to 16, with two new teams being added every two years from 1998 to 2002. Also, from next season, each team will be allowed five foreign players on its roster, up from the current four.

Last week, the New York-New Jersey Metrostars' Italian World Cup star Roberto Donadoni announced he was abandoning MLS to return to AC Milan, raising questions about the quality of the soccer being played in the United States.

However, sources said it was because Donadoni did not like playing on an artificial surface at Giants Stadium, rather than disillusionment with the fledgling league.

Logan said the league was evolving towards a style of its own, borrowing heavily from the rest of the soccer world.

"I think we will develop a style which will incorporate the athleticism of the American player with the more artistic, soccer-skilled South American style. Fans will see a rather unique style emerge over the next few seasons," predicted Logan.

Interestingly, three of the four managers who were either fired or resigned during the season were British style advocates — Eddie Firmani at the metrostars, Frank Stapleton at New England and Bobby Houghton at Colorado.

Portugal's Carlos Queiroz, who took over for Firmani, quit the Metrostars at the end of the season to take a lucrative job in Japan's J-League.

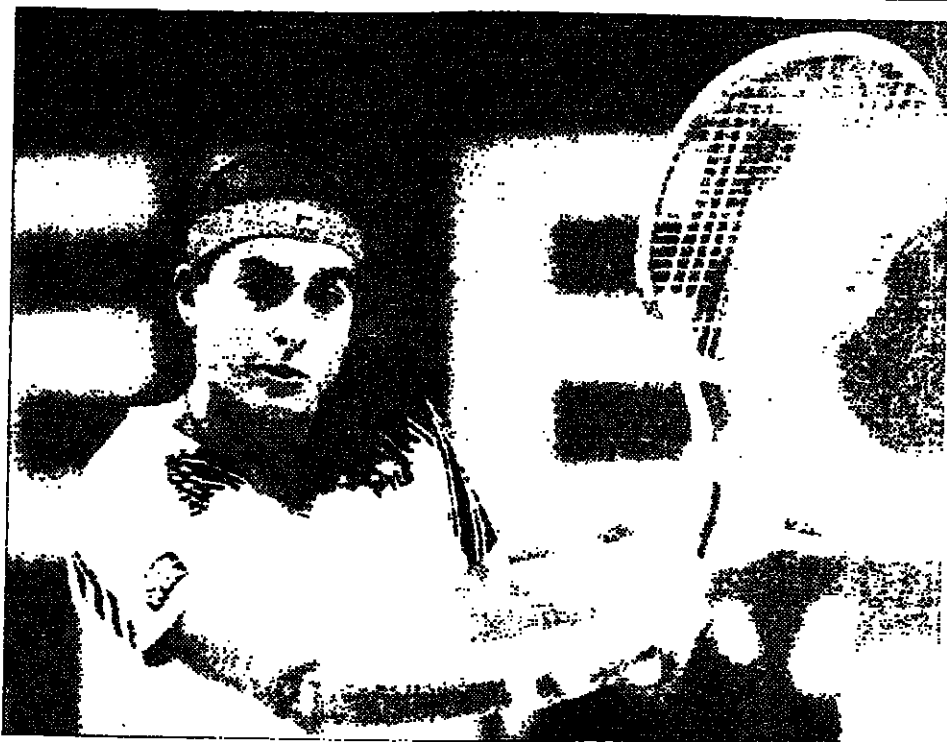
U.S. National coach Steve Sampson, who sees his team start the road to France 1998 with a World Cup qualifying match against Guatemala on November 3, is not convinced the level of MLS play has benefited his players.

After the Americans salvaged a 2-2 draw with Mexico in the U.S. Cup competition in June, he said his players were not as sharp as when they were playing in overseas leagues.

William Olson, who covers the MLS for the California-based soccer weekly, home and away, is philosophical.

"It's a point well taken that the standard of play in the MLS is not up to snuff when compared to the elite leagues of Europe or South America."

"But let's be realistic, those who were expecting that MLS would reach that standard automatically were either intoxicated by having seen the high quality of the world cup in this country in 1994 or were simply expecting a kind of utopia to exist."



Gabriela Sabatini

## Sabatini to retire

NEW YORK (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini is set to retire Thursday, ending a career in which she was once one of the biggest stars in women's tennis but has been unable to win a tournament in nearly two years.

The announcement is to come at Madison Square Garden in New York, where Sabatini captured the 1994 Virginia Slims Championships, her last victory in an important event.

The WTA Tour would not confirm the retirement, saying only the news conference was "major" and concerned Sabatini's future in tennis.

A source close to Sabatini said Tuesday the retirement will take effect immediately, and there are no plans for the 26-year-old Argentine to play in selected tournaments or make a farewell tour.

Sabatini has been troubled by a stomach injury in recent months and was unable to play in the French Open and Wimbledon. She did not advance past the third round of the U.S. Open, a tournament she won in 1990, beating Steffi Graf in the final for the biggest victory of her career.

In Argentina, where Sabatini is the greatest female tennis player in the nation's history, newspapers blared word of her retirement.

"She was one of the very few players who was a great competitor, but as soon as she came off the court she was a normal person," Monica Seles, speaking by conference call, said Tuesday.

"She had aura, she just shines. She had something that brings out the best in other people."

Seles said she is puzzled why Sabatini never lifted her game to a higher level.

"She definitely could have won more Grand Slams for sure," Seles said. "I don't know why she didn't; she had so much talent. Some of the volleys she could hit were unbelievable. It was just pure talent and great touch."

Sabatini turned professional in 1985. Among the top 10 women players for nearly a decade and winner of 27 tournaments, Sabatini is now 29th in the world rankings, her play having steadily declined the last two seasons.

Her last title came in a tuneup event at the New South Wales Open in Australia in January 1995. In her last match, she lost in the first round to Jennifer Capriati last week in the European Indoor Tournament in Zurich, Switzerland.

## Lama looks set for timely return to PSG

PARIS (R) — France goalkeeper Bernard Lama, who has yet to concede a goal this season, looks set to return for his faltering club side Paris Saint-Germain on Friday after more than a month out with a knee injury.

Lama, who underwent surgery after damaging a cartilage saving a penalty against Cannes on September 15, trained normally with the French first division leaders on Tuesday ahead of their trip to Rennes on Friday.

PSG are looking to bounce back from a 4-2 defeat away to Galatasaray of Turkey in the first leg of their second round European Cup Winners' Cup tie last week and a 1-1 draw at home to defending champions Auxerre on Sunday.

The Parisians are six

points clear of second placed Auxerre in the French first division and should beat Galatasaray at home next Wednesday in the return leg, but since Lama's injury they have conceded eight goals in league and cup games.

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### is out of Paris Open

Medvedev, Andia in 1996's Open next week with a shot to Paris in Friday. The Argentine, who lost in the first round of the Paris Open, is expected to be a contender for the French Open.

### s over at Cagliari

Cagliari, Italy, is a small town in the Sardinia region. It is known for its beautiful beaches and historic architecture. The town is a popular destination for tourists and is home to several sports teams.

### anti-hooligan team

Anti-hooligan teams are groups of people who are trained to deal with hooligans. They are often used by police to manage large crowds and prevent violence. These teams are usually composed of volunteers who are trained in crowd control and de-escalation techniques.

### ial dies in air crash

A small private plane crashed into a field near a town in Italy, killing the pilot. The plane was carrying two people and was on a flight from Rome. The crash occurred shortly after takeoff and the cause is still under investigation.

### on duel should be

A duel between two men was held in a public square in Italy. The duel was a traditional one, with the two men facing each other and fighting with swords. The duel was watched by a large crowd of people and ended with one man being victorious.

### of action

A group of people were seen in a public square in Italy, possibly during a protest or demonstration. The group was gathered around a central point and appeared to be engaged in some form of collective action.

### week way out of

A group of people were seen in a public square in Italy, possibly during a protest or demonstration. The group was gathered around a central point and appeared to be engaged in some form of collective action.

### oodforde's victory was

A group of people were seen in a public square in Italy, possibly during a protest or demonstration. The group was gathered around a central point and appeared to be engaged in some form of collective action.

### Krajicek, Chang

A group of people were seen in a public square in Italy, possibly during a protest or demonstration. The group was gathered around a central point and appeared to be engaged in some form of collective action.

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A group of people were seen in a public square in Italy, possibly during a protest or demonstration. The group was gathered around a central point and appeared to be engaged in some form of collective action.

### PRESENTS

A group of people were seen in a public square in Italy, possibly during a protest or demonstration. The group was gathered around a central point and appeared to be engaged in some form of collective action.

## Muster's Wimbledon injury forces him out of Stuttgart Open

TUTTERT (Agencies) — Defending champion Thomas Muster was forced to retire injured during his opening match against Australian Mark Woodbridge in the Eurocard Open on Wednesday.

Muster, whose victory last year was the only one of his career indoors, has been plagued by a nagging hip problem for over a year.

"I had the left hip injury Hong Kong last week," said the 29-year-old, who faces a fitness race to ready for the ATP Tour championships in Hanover beginning in three weeks.

"I made a sudden move last week and that brought it on. Today, I also felt it. I was used to playing with it, but I could not go on any more," he said.

Muster added that he has the problem for at least a year.

He former French Open champion was forced to retire from Wimbledon last summer with the problem after losing in the first round to Andre Agassi.

"I don't know if I'll be ready for Paris next week or not," he said.

Woodforde's victory was third against five losses Muster.

He was leading 3-6, 6-1, when the Austrian retired.

Muster began limping as match reached the second set. He was given treatment on court by the ATP doctor and played on.

After hitting a return the net, the 1995 Stuttgart Open champion gave up his hand in surrender.

After losing the first set of his opening match against Frenchman Arnaud Boes, Wimbledon champion Krajicek cast his mind to London grass in and the biggest win of his career.

During the Wimbledon season helps me be relaxed," Krajicek said. "Sometimes when I'm playing so well I try to remind myself that I am Wimbledon champion and it helps me to relax."

Number eight seed Andre Agassi was on his way to a 4-



Thomas Muster

6, 6-3, 6-2 victory at the prestigious indoor event which has attracted most of the world's top 30 players.

Chang later defeated Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-3, 6-2 to join the Dutchman in the third round.

Krajicek, given a royal award and a hero's reception in the Netherlands after Wimbledon, concedes that apart from his first Grand Slam success he has not had a very successful year.

He has recovered from a knee injury which forced him to retire from a Davis Cup tie against New Zealand last month and his strong serve-and-volley game should suit the fast indoor Stuttgart surface.

Chang now faces former Australian and French Open winner Jim Courier who returned to action after

a two-month injury break with a confidence-boosting 7-6 6-4 victory over Czech Bohdan Ulihrach.

Courier was playing his first competitive match since the middle of August when he picked up a knee injury but came through Tuesday's test without any pain.

The biggest names in the sport appear in the second round as world No. 1 Pete Sampras takes on Armenian Sargis Sargsian who beat Australian Mark Philippoussis 7-5 6-3 in his first-round match on Tuesday.

Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker takes on Britain's big-serving Greg Rusedski who defeated Spaniard Carlos Moya 6-3, 6-4 in the first round.

## Robinson to miss start of NBA season

SAN ANTONIO (R) — San Antonio Spurs All-Star center David Robinson, who has never had a serious injury in his career, will be sidelined for the next two to four weeks with back problems, the team revealed Tuesday.

Robinson and forward Chuck Person both had their backs examined by specialists Monday at a Los Angeles clinic. Person will have surgery next Tuesday and is expected to be out at least three to six months.

Robinson, the 1995 NBA most valuable player who has led the Spurs to consecutive Midwest Division titles, has played just one of five exhibition games. He will miss the start of the season and may not return until the end of November.

"David Robinson will return to Los Angeles for about a five-day period to begin rehabilitation of his back," said Spurs general manager Gregg Popovich. "The current problem does not indicate that surgery is necessary."

essary."

A team spokesman described the injury as a lower back strain, adding that Robinson has experienced back pain for the last couple of years and arrived at training camp in October with lingering pain.

The 31-year-old Robinson is among the league's premier centers. He averaged 25 points, 12.2 rebounds and 3.4 blocks per game last season, his seventh in the league.

Outside of a torn ligament in his left hand that forced him to miss the final 14 games of the 1991-92 season, Robinson has missed just three games in his career.

Robinson's injury would force Will Perdue into the starting lineup. The Spurs traded Dennis Rodman to Chicago in 1995 for Perdue, who played mostly at power forward last season, averaging 5.2 points and 6.1 rebounds per game.

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## Afghan foes battle for heights north of Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Rival Afghan militia pounded each other with artillery, mortar and rocket fire on Wednesday, vying for heights overlooking one of two roads leading into Taliban-held Kabul, witnesses and rival commanders said.

Troops loyal to a powerful warlord joined ex-government soldiers for the first time Wednesday to attack a key pass near Kabul held by Taliban militia, a spokesman for the former government said.

The joint assault was made on the strategic Fabz Pass, some 20 kilometres from the capital, which controls access to the vital north-south new road leading to Kabul, spokesman Merhabuddin Mastan said.

Forces of the ousted Burhanuddin Rabbani government said they launched a major assault to capture the Fabz Pass leading into northeast Kabul, towards which they have been moving back after pulling out last month when the

Taliban attacked.

"We are progressing. We have taken control of the high positions (on the pass) and we will soon clear the Taliban's remaining positions," Mr. Mastan, spokesman for ousted government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood, told reporters behind Masood lines.

He said the forces of northern Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostum, which joined Mr. Masood's front-line last week, had taken part in the attack.

However, by late-afternoon there were no signs of a major advance by Mr. Masood or General Dostum on the eastern side of the plain girded by craggy hills leading to Kabul.

On the other front, on the main road running near the west side of the plain, it was even quieter as the two sides shelled each other's positions around a series of hills running across the plain.

There was no immediate response on the ground to calls for a ceasefire, includ-

ing one on Tuesday by the United Nations Security Council.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali also said a multilateral presence was needed in Kabul if any ceasefire was reached.

The latest initiative, by neighbour Pakistan, was awaiting a response on Wednesday from Gen. Dostum.

Masood forces, whose advance has stalled for the past week some 30 minutes' drive north of the capital, appear determined to take remaining ground held by the Taliban.

Reuters correspondent Chris Bird quoted commanders as saying they now held positions overlooking the Fabz Pass and near Khair Khana, a pass descending into northern Kabul.

But correspondents using the road through Khair Khana on Wednesday morning saw little change on the ground.

## Yemeni kidnappers want dialogue with French

SANAA (Agencies) — Tribesmen holding a French diplomat hostage for the past three days have asked to talk to officials from the French embassy, security sources said on Wednesday.

They said the tribesmen, who kidnapped the diplomat on Monday in Sanaa, made their request to members of other tribes negotiating with them on behalf of the government.

"They said they wanted to open a dialogue with the French embassy," one source said.

French embassy officials in Sanaa refused to comment.

Authorities on Tuesday said security forces would attack homes of the Touyaman tribe if the diplomat was not released by Wednesday midnight (2100 GMT).

But authorities planned to extend the midnight deadline, allowing more time for

negotiations, officials said.

"If negotiations with the kidnappers raise hopes of a release soon, we'll be able to push back the ultimatum by a few hours," said Abdul Wali Al Shumiri, governor of Maarib province in eastern Yemen where the diplomat is being held.

Mr. Shumiri told AFP that local notables were trying to convince the kidnappers of the Jihm tribe to give up the diplomat.

Armed men linked to the Jihm tribe kidnapped the diplomat, whose name has not been made public, with his car near the embassy and drove off to the eastern Maarib region.

A police officer said the authorities, whose security forces have circled the mountainous region of Beni Taiman which is a stronghold of the Jihm tribe, want to avoid bloodshed by giving the negotiations a

chance.

The governor warned on Tuesday that "after midnight Wednesday, our forces will occupy the homes of the Jihm tribe."

"We do not fear for the life of the hostage. The kidnappers won't dare try anything because we've arrested dozens of members of their tribe," he said. "We will carry out more arrests right up until the deadline."

He said the authorities had ruled out any negotiation of the demands made by the Jihm tribe until the diplomat is freed.

The tribe wants compensation for homes damaged in flooding last January and for land it claims in the capital, as well as local administrative posts for its members, said the governor.

Yemeni tribes frequently kidnap foreigners, including diplomats, to try to obtain concessions from the government.

## Chirac and King express hope for comprehensive peace

(Continued from page 1)

will hold a press conference today shortly after the president addresses Parliament.

A financial protocol worth of 80 million French francs (\$16 million) will be signed between France and Jordan today. Total French assistance this year to Jordan is estimated at 400 million francs in addition to the French aid through the European Union that is estimated at 130 million francs.

Mr. Chirac will leave Amman for Lebanon today. He will also visit Egypt.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti held talks early Wednesday with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette during a stopover the French minister made here on his way to join Mr. Chirac in Ramallah.

The talks, attended by Ambassador Bajelet, focused on the role of France and the European Union to boost the Middle East peace process.

Mr. De Charette was coming from Egypt where he stayed during Mr. Chirac's visit to Israel. The exclusion of Mr. De Charette from

the president's visit to Israel was to protest Israel's opposition to the minister paying an official visit to Orient House, the unofficial political headquarters of Palestinians in Arab East Jerusalem.

However, the Israeli stand, did not dissuade the French from deciding to send another envoy, the minister of health, to the Orient House on condition that the discussions there were limited to health matters.

Mr. De Charette rejoined the president today in his tour.

## Democratic state alongside Israel

(Continued from page 1)

agreed that France should "play a role, with Europe, alongside the other co-sponsors" of the peace process, an idea rejected earlier this week by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

After Ramallah, Mr. Chirac and Mr. Arafat flew to self-rule headquarters in

Gaza City where the French leader put his backing for Palestinian sovereignty into action.

He approved a protocol providing \$1.5 million in additional French assistance for construction of a deep-water port in Gaza designed to reduce Palestinian economic dependence on Israel. He also promised Mr.

Arafat \$2 million to help reduce the PNA's budget deficit, which is expected to top \$180 million this year due in large part to the Israeli closure.

Before leaving for Jordan on the next leg of his Middle East tour, Mr. Chirac and Mr. Arafat also attended the inauguration of Charles de Gaulle Street in central Gaza City.

## Yael Dayan gets sympathy call from King

(Continued from page 1)

man called her late Tuesday to say: "The next time we won't give you tea, we will liquidate you."

Ms. Dayan, daughter of former army chief and Defence Minister Moshe Dayan, said she later received a sympathy call from King Hussein over the incidents.

"The King called me to express his sympathy ... and invited me to come for a rest in his palace," she said.

The death threats against Ms. Dayan came after a right-wing militant tossed tea at her as she carried out

a fact-finding mission in Hebron.

The attacker was identified as Yisrael Lederman, a 60-year-old Jerusalem resident once sentenced to 16 years in prison for killing a Palestinian but whose sentence was cut short by military officials after two years.

Tuesday's attack and the subsequent death threats heightened fears of a resurgence of political violence a year after the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by an extreme Jewish right-winger.

Hebron has been the scene of almost daily protests in

recent days by settlers and other Israeli right-wingers opposed to any Israeli withdrawal from the city.

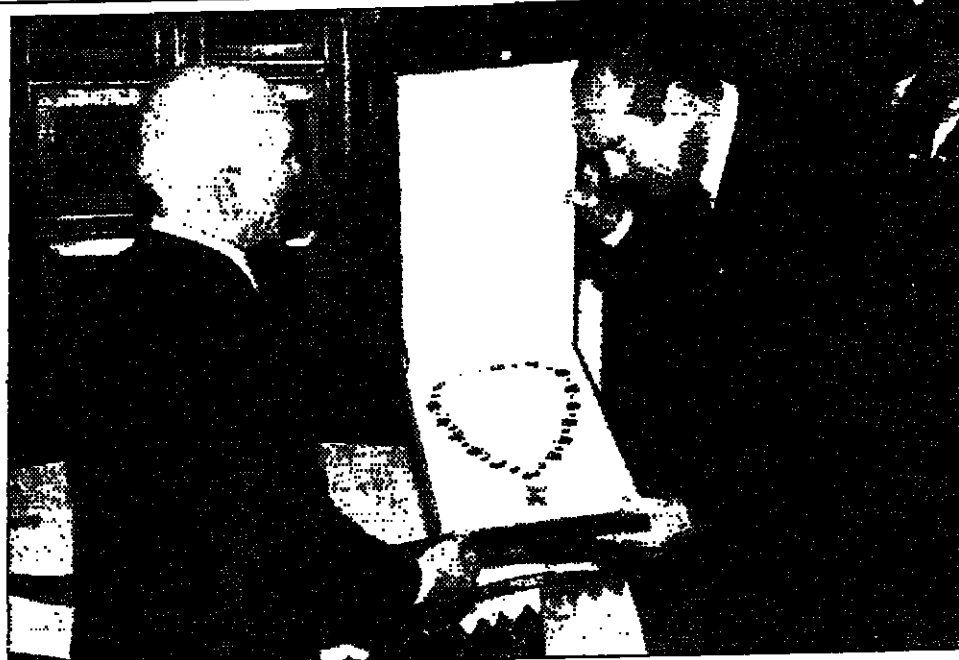
In a separate incident on Wednesday, Israeli police prevented Jewish settlers from taking over two Palestinian shops in Hebron that were closed down by the military authorities several months ago.

Around 10 settlers clutching placards claiming the shops as Jewish property tried to get into the shops in Hebron's main market, and one was detained by police for questioning.

## Jordan honours Chirac with highest medal

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday conferred Jordan's highest decoration upon French President Jacques Chirac. The King presented President Chirac with "Al Hussein Ben Ali" Medal in recognition of his outstanding role in furthering the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Throughout his term in office, President Chirac has been one of Jordan's staunchest friends, and has



worked to help the Kingdom in promoting regional peace. Furthermore, President Chirac is a strong supporter of warm bilateral relations between Jordan and France, a Royal Palace statement said. King Hussein also presented President Chirac with a set of ancient coins and a crystal vase with an etching of Raghadan Palace. This was the first

palace built in Jordan in the mid-1920s by King Hussein's grandfather and founder of the Kingdom. King Abdullah. The set of five coins included: — A bronze coin minted in Amman and dated approximately AD 691-697 — A Roman coin dated AD 253-268. — A European bronze coin minted in Umm Qais, a

Jordanian city which was known in Roman times as Gedar, one of the ten cities of the Decapolis.

— A Ptolemaic Tetradrachma coin, dated 323-285 BC.

— A Nabataean bronze coin on the back side of which is an etching of the Nabataean King Aretas IV and his wife Shaqlat, dated AD 25-40.

## Israeli 'copters' attack S. Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon, (Agencies) — Israeli helicopters fired rockets and machineguns at guerrilla-held hills in southeast Lebanon before dawn on Wednesday, Lebanese security sources said.

The Israeli army denied its helicopters rocketed guerrilla targets but said they conducted a live-fire exercise over Lebanese territory.

Lebanese police and sources with the Hizbollah group in the area confirmed the helicopter attack.

The security sources said the helicopters fired six rockets at an area around the villages of Qilya and Mazra'at Al Dallafi just outside the eastern sector of Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone.

"They bombarded the area with air-to-surface missiles," a source said. "There are routes used by the guerrillas there."

There were no reports of casualties but after firing the rockets, the helicopters strafed the area with heavy machineguns for about 30 minutes, the sources added.

Later, guerrillas fired mortar bombs and anti-tank rockets at a post held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) at Ahmadiyah on the edge of the eastern sector of the zone but no one was hurt.

Israeli or SLA gunners fired about 25 artillery shells in retaliation into guerrilla-held hills. Two shells hit Qilya, damaging a car but causing no casualties, security sources said.

## Group wants information

A human rights group has asked President Jacques Chirac during his visit Thursday to Beirut to raise the fate of Lebanese and Palestinians kidnapped by Syrian security agents.

In a letter to the French president on Wednesday, Human Rights Watch asked Mr. Chirac to "discuss with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri the issue of the abductions of Lebanese citizens and Palestinian refugees by the Syrian secret services in Lebanon." The organisation also denounced Lebanon's "complicity" in these abductions, adding some people had disappeared after they were transferred to Syria where they were imprisoned "without trial nor respect for legal procedures."

Kenneth Roth, a spokesman for the group, accused the Lebanese secret services of helping to abduct several Lebanese people dragged to Syrian security headquarters in Beirut and tortured.

"Human Rights Watch believes the Lebanese government is also responsible for the ruling fear and silence," said Mr. Roth.

## Lull in Kurdish fighting amid hopes for ceasefire

KOI SANJAK (AFP) — Fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq eased on Wednesday following an announcement they have agreed in principle to a U.S.-brokered ceasefire and to hold peace talks in Turkey.

Wolde Ammar, spokesman for U.N. humanitarian activities in Iraq, said the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) were fighting in only one area as "everyone expects a ceasefire."

"According to the latest reports, there is less tension," Mr. Ammar said in Baghdad. "There is only fighting in Habet Sultan," a strategic hill between the PUK-held town of Dukan and KDP-held Koi Sanjak.

In Ankara, where U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau has been leading peace talks with both sides, sources close to the talks said a formal ceasefire announcement could come any time. "We expect a formal announcement simultaneously by the two sides later today," one source told AFP.

Mr. Pelletreau met separately on Monday and Tuesday with KDP leader Masood Barzani and the leader of the PUK, Jalal

Talabani, and the U.S. envoy said Wednesday the two sides had agreed in principle to a ceasefire.

However, both Iran and Iraq cast doubt on whether U.S.-mediated efforts would lead to a lasting peace.

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Omer Akbel said the warring Iraqi Kurdish groups and delegates from Ankara, Washington and London had agreed to meet in Ankara next week to try to reach a "final agreement" for northern Iraq.

It will be the first face-to-face talks between the two Kurdish factions, since September 1995, when they met in Drogheda in Ireland in a bid to end the conflict which has cost well over 2,000 lives.

Mr. Pelletreau held talks in the Turkish border town of Silopi on Monday with Mr. Barzani and met Tuesday in Ankara with Talabani in a bid to end the latest fighting.

"Each side has accepted the principle of a ceasefire provided that the other does as well and provided that supporting fire from the forces of Tehran and Baghdad also ceases," Mr. Pelletreau said.

"The governments of

Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom now call on each side to implement this ceasefire in place beginning immediately."

"This means that each side will take defensive positions and not initiate firing or hostilities," he said.

However, KDP official Brouk Nouri Shawis told AFP here that "the PUK, supported by Iranian artillery, is leading a major offensive" near Koy Sanjak. Mr. Talabani's hometown which fell to KDP forces on Friday.

The KDP's radio, the Voice of Kurdistan, issued an "urgent appeal" to the world community to "put pressure on Iran" which it accused of sending thousands of soldiers against KDP forces.

Artillery fire could be heard in the distance Wednesday but both the PUK and Iran have denied any Iranian involvement in the fighting.

The latest round of fighting in northern Iraq erupted two weeks ago when the PUK launched a counter-offensive to recover its stronghold of Sulaimaniyah, near the Iranian border, and other areas lost to KDP forces in September.

## Palestinians, Israel discuss final phase of security deal on Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

added. Israeli officials were not immediately available for comment on the Palestinian demand.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators ended talks on security issues early on Wednesday.

"I am sorry to say that the gap until early this morning at five o'clock is still very wide," Mr. Arafat told a news conference after meeting French President Jacques Chirac in the West Bank.

PLO officials had said gaps were narrowed but differences remained on crucial issues. They said the talks would resume later in the day.

Negotiator Jamil Al Tarifi, head of the civilian affairs committee in the Hebron talks, said both sides agreed on a compromise on civilian issues. He gave no details.

"We have also demanded that Israel clearly state its position on the issue of settlement expansion and building," Mr. Asfour told Reuters.

In 1994, Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein massacred at least 30 Palestinian worshippers in Hebron's Al Ibrahim Mosque.

Palestinian officials have said the only way to avoid future massacres in the city would be to evacuate the settlers from the heart of Hebron.

Under the autonomy deal,

they can stay and final status talks will determine the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Witnesses said settlers in Hebron on Tuesday distributed leaflets in Arabic, signed by "Friends of the hero Baruch Goldstein," threatening to use automatic weapons to shoot Palestinians.

The leaflet promised that the day Israeli troops redeployed would be a "bloody day" and described Palestinians as "sons and grandsons of dogs."

Abdul Razak Al Sweiri, 70, said that settlers rampaged and destroyed his shop and 10 other stores on Tuesday night.

"The settlers came to our shops and began destroying them. They were escorted by Israeli soldiers. Their provocations are exceeding the limits, and if this continues, violence will erupt in the city," he said.

Negotiators from both sides say talks on sharing control of civilian affairs involving the settlers are nearly concluded, while parallel talks on military arrangements for the city were making headway.

Mr. Ross joined the round of talks late Tuesday on the military issues, attended by Mahmoud Abbas, the deputy of Mr. Arafat, and Israeli army Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak.

Under the autonomy deal,

more open optimism after the talks. "New ideas have been put forward and things are beginning to be clearer," Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo told journalists afterwards.

The negotiations, which had dragged on since their launch on Oct. 9, showed surprising new life immediately after Mr. Ross announced Monday that he was returning to Washington with the two sides still far apart over Hebron.

Hours later, he cancelled his travel plans to attend a late-night round of talks on civilian issues which he said proved to be "the most promising discussions to date."

The Israeli press has quoted Palestinian and Israeli negotiators as saying the civilian issue had largely been resolved by a compromise under which Israel recognises Palestinian municipal control over all of Hebron in exchange for height limits on Palestinian buildings in a "buffer zone" around Jewish areas.

The limits are designed to prevent sniper attacks on the Jewish area.

The two sides also reportedly agreed to form a joint commission to ensure uninterrupted supplies of municipal services and utilities to settlers. An Israeli government spokesman, Moshe Fogel, said talks on the civilian matters were "finished."

## COLUMBIAN

Carry your loved one's ashes around your neck

CINCINNATI (R) — Forget about the urn on the mantelpiece. Now you can carry a loved one's ashes around your neck, sealed in a gold pendant. The heart-shaped pendant collection made its debut at the National Funeral Directors Convention. Created by Terry Dieterle, an undertaker from Aurora, Illinois, the necklaces come in yellow gold, white gold and diamonds in three designs: — "infinity" and "love." Inside each can be permanently sealed a small amount of ashes or a lock of hair from the departed. Dieterle said he noticed a need "in the cremation market for a very personal keepsake, one that offers greater value, both in sentiment and design. The trend in personalising the death experience is something we've seen grow over the last few years." The pendants cost from \$1,900 to \$10,000 each.

Divorce can be predicted — even before knot tied

LONDON (R) — An American psychologist has claimed that nine out of 10 divorces can be predicted even before the couples are married. Howard Markham, a clinical psychologist at the University of Denver, told a conference of marriage guidance counsellors that failure to communicate, or letting small problems escalate into big ones, were sure signs that the relationship was doomed. "Conflict in relationships is inevitable. But we think if people learned to manage it, the divorce rate could be reduced by 80 to 90 per cent," Mr. Markham said. Some people, particularly those whose parents had divorced, were more prone to fall into the same pattern, but couples who had communication problems before tying the knot were nearly always destined to undo it.

London's millennium wheel gets approval

LONDON (R) — Plans to build a £10 million (\$15 million) millennium wheel in London to mark the year 2000 have been approved. Lambeth borough council in south London gave the go-ahead for the 150 metre high project which will be the world's biggest ferris wheel. The millennium wheel, sponsored by British Airways, will be built on the Thames River opposite the Houses of Parliament and is expected to attract two million visitors each year.

Florida pilot survives landing on market rooftop

VENICE, Florida — A pilot whose light plane developed engine trouble landed it on the roof of a supermarket and was able to walk away unhurt, a police spokesman said. Raymond McClelland suffered only a minor cut on his knee and no one else was hurt, but the plane was destroyed. Mr. McClelland, 52, of Venice, Florida, was trying to reach a Venice airport when the single-engine Cessna lost oil pressure. He crash-landed the plane on the Publix Supermarket roof about a mile short of the runway police said. Sarasota Sheriff's Department spokesman Cpl. The Carney said the plane had landed across the roof and the inside of a three-foot high parapet around it. He may have chosen the Publix Supermarket because it was a large open space with no pedestrians. Cpl. Carney said.